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Porsche slumps to bigger losses

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Sex, violence and censorship

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THE SHERIFF DIVISION
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JONES AVENUE

8 PAGES OF WEEKEND MONEY
Section 2

THE TIMES

No. 64,585 SATURDAY MARCH 6 1993 50p

Nicholas Ridley, a great Englishman, says Thatcher



Ridley: stand against Maastricht treaty

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Thatcher last night led tributes to Lord Ridley, one of the most controversial and colourful Conservative ministers of the past decade. "Truly, he was a great Englishman. His contribution to our country was immense," the former prime minister said, clearly deeply upset.

Lord Ridley of Liddesdale, 64, died peacefully at home on Thursday night after a long illness. He was a forceful opponent of the Maastricht treaty and an unwavering supporter of Lady Thatcher.

Nicholas Ridley, a chain-smoker, held three posts in Mrs Thatcher's cabinet before resigning dramatically in 1990 over an interview in *The Spectator* in which he criticised Germany and Britain's other European partners.

After having been made a life peer last year, the staunch free marketeer remained a strong ally of the former prime minister, and in the Lords kept up his opposition to the treaty and to the exchange-rate mechanism until weeks before his death.

Although Lord Ridley had no inhibitions about attacking John Major's government, the prime minister added a warm personal tribute. Mr Major said he had rarely known anyone whose personality in private was so different from his public image: "He inspired great affection among those who worked closely with him." Sir Norman Fowler, chairman of the Conservative party, said Lord Ridley was an effective and kind minister and would be remembered with great affection.

John Smith, the Labour leader, said Nicholas Ridley was "a man of integrity, an honourable opponent and he will be missed in political life". Lord Whitelaw said he was "a very clever man" who stood up for what he believed.

Lord Ridley, who lived near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, was one of the most forthright Tories of both houses. He looked increasingly frail and haggard in the past six months and made his final speech in the Lords on his birthday on February 17. He became MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury in 1959. After junior posts in the trade and industry departments and the Foreign Office, he became financial secretary to the Treasury in 1983.

He gained his first cabinet post as transport secretary in 1983, moving to environment three years later, and on to his final post as trade and industry secretary from 1989-90.

Aristocratic Whig, page 5
Diary, page 16
Obituary, page 19

Tory intrigue as ministers call for unity

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

While Cabinet ministers make appeals for unity, the upper echelons of the Tory party are engaged in a ferocious battle for the chancellor's job

AN orchestrated effort to wear down the Tory party's Maastricht rebels was unleashed yesterday with a succession of demands from cabinet ministers for loyalty to John Major and the government.

As the prime minister prepared today to appeal for party unity, his senior ministers made a concerted attempt to crush the Euro-rebellion by warning MPs that if they continue their antics they will split the party, wreck economic recovery and plunge the European Community into chaos.

Douglas Hurd, Michael Heseltine and Sir Norman Fowler used speeches at the Conservative central council in Harrogate to intensify the pressure on the rebels that began with the attack on them at the 1922 committee.

It was a clear attempt to isolate the rebels by putting the squeeze on them through their constituency parties and it came as some constituency officials called for the rebels to be deselected as MPs. The cabinet appeals for party unity contrasted with the atmosphere of deep intrigue within the parliamentary party over the choice of the next Chancellor of the Exchequer if Norman Lamont is removed in a summer reshuffle.

Although Mr Lamont has signalled his intention of fighting to stay in his job, supporters of some of his potential successors are alleging a dirty tricks campaign in the battle to succeed him. Friends of Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, have denied suggestions that he has told Mr Major that he was not interested in going to the Treasury. He would be a candidate if there were a vacancy, his friends have made clear.

As Conservatives met in a mood of deep concern about the problems facing the government, Sir Norman began the attacks on the rebels by telling them bluntly that they were elected to support the government. He said: "Party unity is not some optional extra. It is the fundamental bedrock of our strength."

He told them that Tory politics was not an "a la carte menu". He said: "We cannot be loyal on certain days of the week. We cannot choose to support our leaders on some issues in our manifesto and attack them on others."

Sir Norman was followed to



the rostrum by the foreign secretary, who called on the Conservatives to raise their sights above the "trench warfare" of the Maastricht bill. In a speech that reflected the impatience of ministers with the rebels, Mr Hurd said that so long as the Maastricht debate lingered on, the party would remain divided and the country would be unable to pull its weight. Ratification was in the national interest.

The message was rammed home by Mr Heseltine, who said that the Commons was sending damaging signals to the outside world by its behaviour over the bill. The board of trade president said he feared that the overall impression being put about was that Britain's European credentials were suspect, putting investment and jobs at risk.

He suggested that by their antics MPs were helping the French and the Germans in their fight for investment. Using the strongest language of all the ministers, Mr Heseltine asked how any Conservative party member could help Labour "to undermine our national self-interest, our ability to compete, our industry's chance to win. How could any member of the Tory party help Labour seek to impose the costs of the social chapter on Britain? The prime minister is entitled to expect that what the party believes in April of one year it will continue to believe a mere 11 months later."

Throughout his speech Sir Norman called for loyalty to Mr Major. He said: "We stand or fall as one party. Party unity is what has brought us four victories in a row. The prime minister who won us that historic fourth election victory deserves our support in return."

Sir Norman and Mr Heseltine gave optimistic assessments of Britain's prospects. The party chairman said: "We are fighting through to recovery with clear signs in the retail sales figures, the car sales figures, the output figures, that the recession is coming to an end."

Dirty tricks, page 8

CHRIS HARRIS



Lucy Hodson admires the stolen Reynolds, with the Gainsborough in the background

Binliner reveals Old Masters

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO 18th-century Old Masters stolen in a daring raid on Lincoln's Inn Fields more than two years ago have reappeared wrapped in a binliner after an amateur collector bought them for £145 from a market stall.

Yesterday Sotheby's put the Gainsborough and the Reynolds, together worth £75,000, on display after the collector bought the paintings in for a valuation and they were spotted by Lucy Hodson, a young specialist. A third Gainsborough, of Pitt the Younger, is still missing and is valued at up to £2 million.

Police believe the thieves probably got rid of the pictures after discovering they were too distinctive to sell. They eventually appeared at a weekly antiques market at Bermondsey, south London.

Detectives went to the market yesterday in the hope of finding the man who sold the pictures but were unable to identify him in spite of help from the collector. The seller was not someone the collector had seen in the market before.

The market has a special legal position as a "market overt", which means purchasers can claim ownership even if goods later prove to be stolen. The buyer could go to court over ownership but police expect some arrangement to be struck with loss adjustors as insurance on the paintings has been paid out.

Clinton to bail out Russia's poor

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton is considering a multi-billion dollar plan for Western aid to Russia to help those in need as a result of the economic upheavals.

The proposal was described by White House officials yesterday as a social safety net that could be provided by the Group of Seven most industrialised countries (G7). The idea is to be on the agenda at the first summit between Mr Clinton and President Yeltsin, which had been billed as a one-day get-together, but will now cover the first weekend in April, in Vancouver.

Mr Clinton said yesterday that he hoped to be specific at the summit about what America could do to help Russia: "I will try to offer some innovative solutions to the difficulties faced by the president and the Russian people and I hope this will be very productive." Mr Clinton would explore how America could support efforts to strengthen democracy and create a market economy.

The proposal for Western social support to Russia could emerge as a US initiative at July's G7 summit. The aid could be spent in areas such as unemployment pay and retraining for Russians who have lost jobs through the closure of state-run factories; help for those whose pensions have been destroyed by inflation; and extra pay for police, teachers and others, whose spending power has shrunk.

Half of the $24 billion agreed at last year's G7 summit for allocation by the International Monetary Fund was never seen by Moscow because it went into debt repayment and a rouble stabilisation fund. The rest was in bilateral loans and bank credits for various enterprises in which long-term benefits could be far off.

Congress called, page 11
Leading article, page 17
Rothmans in Russia, page 21

The best of sport in The Times

■ Rob Hughes, below, one of the most authoritative voices in British sport, joins *The Times* today as football correspondent. During his 22 years with *The Sunday Times*, Hughes has been hailed as one of the game's most elegant writers and penetrating analysts

■ Hughes has reported from five World Cup finals and his work has appeared in newspapers around the world. In 1990 his expertise in international football even won a medal of recognition from the government of Brazil. He strengthens a



formidable team of award-winning writers on *The Times*.

■ He joins David Miller, Britain's top analyst of sporting politics and performance, Simon Barnes, the wittiest observer of sport's human frailties, and Clement Freud, whose Freud on Friday column looks at all sports from the vantage point of the terraces.

With Alan Lee and John Woodcock on cricket, Richard Evans on racing and David Hands on rugby union, *The Times* is the paper to follow for sport, today and every day.

Rob Hughes writes on page 35 today

Births, marriages, deaths 18
Crossword 20
Leading articles 17
Letters 17,32
Sport 34-40
Weather 20

Arts 14
Concise Crossword 18
TV & Radio 16,17

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Ben Johnson is banned for life

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

BEN Johnson, who lost his world 100 metres record and Olympic gold medal after failing a drugs test in 1988, yesterday was found positive for a second doping offence and suspended from athletics for life.

The Canadian sprinter was found positive for a high level of testosterone, the male hormone, at an indoor meeting in Montreal in January. He can appeal against the finding.

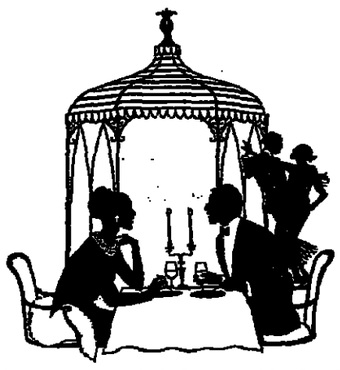
Meeting in Paris to review the evidence against Johnson, a five-man commission of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) found that he had again broken the regulations. The ratio in Johnson's urine of testosterone to epitestosterone was 10.3-to-one. The customary ratio in males is one-to-one. Professor Arnold Ljungqvist of Sweden, chairman of the IAAF doping panel, said: "This is a clear-cut case of testosterone doping. We are very sad that this man is guilty."

Johnson finished first in the 100 metres at the Commonwealth Games, world championships and Olympic Games in the 1980s while taking banned substances.

In a statement issued on his behalf in Toronto yesterday, Johnson again denied taking a banned substance. "Mr Johnson stands by his earlier statement that he has taken no prohibited substances and has engaged in no improper practices," the statement said.

Guilty verdict, page 40

How to play a romantic lead in London's West End



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Clarke demands league table on police performance


Clarke: believes leagues would fuel public interest in policing

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

A change in Tory attitudes towards the police will open force performances to greater public scrutiny as league tables allow comparisons

KENNETH Clarke, the home secretary, is demanding that national league tables of police performance be published in spite of fierce resistance from senior officers and Home Office officials.

Mr Clarke is determined to expose the police nationally to public scrutiny in the way that schools are through publication of examination league tables. In spite of hostility to the idea from within the police service, the minister believes that national league tables will increase public interest in the fight against crime and in the activities of local forces.

Mr Clarke recognises the difficulties in comparing forces in vastly different areas, but believes that the public is aware that like should be compared with like. He said yesterday: "It would be interesting to compare Dyfed-Powys force with Gwent and North Yorkshire or Greater Manchester with Nottingham and the Metropolitan Police."

The police have already agreed to publish 17 performance measures, including detection rates for different crimes, speed of 999-call responses, numbers of police available for duty, and numbers of substantiated complaints. These indicators, formulated by the Audit Commission, will be produced by each of the 43 forces in England and Wales for use in local newspapers by the end of next year.

Mr Clarke believes that this initiative is insufficient and is pressing for indicators of performance and efficiency to be published in a national ranking by 1995. His desire for national tables is part of the government's drive for a far-reaching shake-up of the police service, its structure, culture, and pay and conditions.

The minister told a London conference organised by the Audit Commission yesterday that doubts about whether realistic comparisons could be made between rural and urban forces should not deter change. "I do not think that the ranking of police forces in a performance league table ... should be put off the agenda for that reason alone," he said.

The indicators would let people see which force had scored most highly. However, in some cases, a high score would be a matter of having met a target set by a police authority rather than a performance that was necessarily objectively better than that of a neighbouring force.

The minister said that school league tables had proved popular with the public. Monitoring of police was important because the service was a national monopoly.

Tables would put police chiefs under pressure to explain their policies and tell the public why they were doing less well than other forces. Mr Clarke believes that greater public curiosity will improve the debate about crime.

Mr Clarke told the conference that everyone had expectations about the police and that some were "frankly unrealistic".

Mr Clarke also called for the government to use more populist language to promote changes that it is introducing in the public sector and through the citizen's charter. He said: "Our new reforms must be described in much more human terms." Mr Clarke believes that the government is failing to get its message across because of reliance on management jargon rather than populist phrases that would make people sit up and take notice.

Last night, Charles Pollard, chief constable of Thames Valley Police, said that he was concerned that league tables would "skew" police priorities. He said: "Policing is a very complex, human service. If it is reduced to simplistic, crude, mechanistic statistics, it could badly skew policing away from having bobbies on the beat to very fast responses being the be-all and end-all."

Yentob admits TV hospital drama was too violent

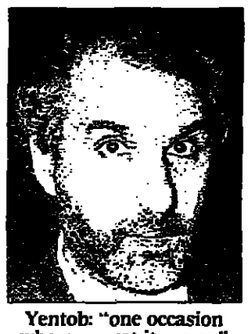
By Alison Roberts

SCREENING a particularly violent episode of the hospital drama *Casualty* was a mistake, Alan Yentob, the new controller of BBC1, admitted yesterday.

Speaking in a pre-recorded debate for Channel Four's *Right to Reply*, to be screened tonight, Mr Yentob said: "I think this was one occasion where we got it wrong. In the future we shall take more care and scrutiny to ensure that we understand public sentiment and the public climate."

He added: "I think we have real responsibilities here, both to try to make programmes that reflect the world as it is ... and to understand that we have an audience where children may be watching."

Last week's *Casualty* episode, considered too violent to be broadcast before the 9pm watershed, was put back from its normal time.


Yentob: "one occasion where we got it wrong"

Melvyn Bragg said that he believed the BBC had misjudged the level of violence in the programme, but he rejected suggestions, voiced recently by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, that broadcasting authorities were not properly controlling their output of potentially disturbing material. Mr Clarke concluded that levels of television violence were partly responsible for a higher level of violence in society at large.

Mr Bragg, whose TV adaptation of his novel *A Time to Dance* is considered too close to the edge for American markets, said it was too easy an argument to blame television.

"One needs to be wary of politicians who attribute social ills to television. If I had to choose between British TV and the British government as to who was most at fault, I would point at the government," he said.

The Broadcasting Standards Council yesterday said that violence in feature films shown on television had risen to an alarming level.

Lord Rees-Mogg, chairman of the council, said that it regarded violence as the most important issue on its agenda. "There is also a profound concern about the depiction of sexual violence in broadcasting," he said.


Stars at night: models parade the latest designs from Red or Dead, a glow-in-the dark collection of evening clothes. The dresses and suits, in silk devore velvet and crêpe de Chine, show skeleton designs on the fabric when the lights are turned out. The autumn/winter collection included leather outfits "inspired by coal miners" in a range that "pays homage to the beleaguered proletariat".

Foreign buyers were out in force yesterday as British fashion designers displayed their talents during London Fashion Week. John Wilson, chief executive of the British Fashion Council, said: "There have been a lot of overseas buyers showing interest, which is a very positive sign."

John Rocha received a warm welcome back to the catwalks when he showed his lastest Celtic-inspired autumn/winter collection. A-line gaberdine reefer jackets, long velvet maxicoats, and all-enveloping sheepskins were layered over tiny skinny rib sweaters and long patchwork skirts in a neutral palette of black, grey and navy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Staff accuse BBC of hypocrisy over tax

Staff unions yesterday called for the resignations of John Birt, director-general of the BBC, and Marmaduke Hussey, the corporation's chairman. The demand follows this week's disclosure that Mr Birt has avoided tax on his salary, which has been paid into a private company since he joined the BBC in 1987.

The resignation call was made at a meeting between the broadcasting union Bectu, the National Union of Journalists and the BBC's director of personnel, Margaret Salmon. Roger Bolton, Bectu's chief negotiator, said: "Staff are shocked and outraged at the damage caused to the BBC's reputation by these revelations."

Mr Hussey was accused by Mr Bolton of an error of judgment in approving the arrangements in 1987. Tony Lennon, the union's president, said: "The thousands of bona fide freelancers who are forced to pay full-rate tax now believe that the corporation is being run by hypocrites."

French pledge on fish

France has agreed to protect British fish and shellfish exports sent by ferry to French ports, it was announced yesterday. The move follows a series of incidents in which British consignments have been attacked or denied entry to the country by protesting French fishermen. David Curry, the fisheries minister, said: "The French police have undertaken to provide protection for consignments of which we give advance notification via the British embassy in Paris." He said the government would continue to press for compensation where losses had occurred and "for perpetrators of the recent outrageous acts of violence to be brought to book".

Mink to eat salmon

More than 500,000 Shetland salmon contaminated by oil from the wreck of the tanker *Braer* are to be destroyed and turned into feed for Norwegian mink. The decision follows a compensation agreement worth between £7 million and £9 million reached yesterday between eight salmon farmers and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund. It will now be up to individual farmers to accept the deal. The first consignment of polluted salmon could be on its way to Norway in ten days.

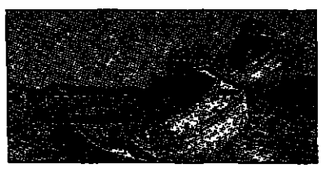
Carey blames parents

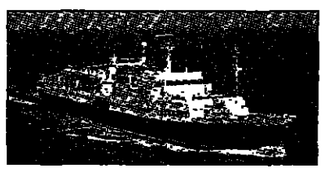
The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday blamed juvenile crime and the malaise in society on bad parenting and the failure to underpin moral education with spiritual values. He criticised people who refused to take responsibility for what is happening around them.

Religious syllabus, page 10

Landlords unmollified

A concession over leasehold reform has been rejected as meaningless by the landowners group of Tory peers. An amendment to the bill excludes non-resident leaseholders from giving long-term tenants increased rights. However, it does not apply to the provisions that would allow long-term tenants to force landlords to sell their freeholds.





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DAY 5 At sea
DAY 6 Xiamen (Amoy) was a prominent Ming trading port in the 14th century and later a place of refuge for Ming Rulers fleeing from the Manchu invaders. See the Gulangyu Island and the Nanputuo Temple and the Jimei school village.
DAY 7 Fuzhou Mentioned by Marco Polo, the 9th century city of Fuzhou is situated 25 miles upstream from the mouth of the Min River. See Nantai Island where foreigners first established themselves when Fuzhou became an unequal treaty port in the 19th century, also the thousand year old Yongquan Monastery and West Lake Park.
DAY 8 At sea
DAY 9 Shanghai Drive along the Nanjing Road, see the Bund and visit the Shanghai Museum. Optional visit to the arts and crafts institute house in a French Bourgeois villa.
DAY 10 Zhangjiang A day of exploration in Wuxi, one of the most charming cities in all China with its picturesque canals and bridges, beautiful gardens and parks. Sail in the late afternoon along the Yangtse.
DAY 11 Nanjing Drive across one of the enormous Yangtse River bridges, see the Mausoleum of Sun Yet Sen, the first Ming Tomb and the Ling Gu Pagoda on purple Mountain. Late afternoon embarkation on MS Caledonian Star – moor overnight.
DAY 12 Nanjing - Hangzhou Disembark in the morning and travel by train to Hangzhou. Stay 2 nights in this city famous for its unique beauty.
DAY 13 Hangzhou Spend the day exploring the city particularly the gardens by the West Lake, also see the Six Harmonies Pagoda and the Temple of the Soul's Retreat.
DAY 14 Hangzhou - Xian Fly to Xian, a one time capital. Stay 2 nights.
DAY 15 Xian See the Terracotta Army, the burial ground of the first Qin Emperor.
DAY 16 Xian - Beijing Fly to Beijing for a three night stay at the first class Jianguo Hotel.
DAY 17 Beijing Morning visit to the Forbidden City followed by an afternoon at the Temple of Heavenly Peace.
DAY 18 Beijing Full day to the Great Wall and the Valley of the Ming Tombs.
DAY 19 Beijing - London Depart by air for London in the morning. Evening arrival at Heathrow.

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Dublin tries flexible approach

By Edward Gorman
Ireland Correspondent

DICK Spring, the Irish foreign minister, yesterday set out the most flexible position yet adopted by an Irish government on the vexed question of the republic's constitutional claim to Northern Ireland.

He told an audience at the Mansion House in Dublin that while change in the relevant Articles could not be achieved casually, the constitution had never been intended to be an obstacle to mutual understanding in Ireland, and should not be regarded as incapable of amendment.

"If, in a new situation, there is need — as I expect there will be — of a changed approach to reflect and buttress a new level of mutual understanding, I believe our people will readily be persuaded to endorse change, provided they are satisfied that it does truly serve that purpose."

Mr Spring said it was no longer a question of whether the Irish government "could" or "would" put an agreed constitutional package to the people in a referendum, since his administration had unequivocally committed itself to do this.

Mr Spring again appealed to Unionist leaders to meet him to help restart the talking process on Northern Ireland.

CORRECTION

Leighton Park School, Reading, is co-educational and admits girls from the age of 11, rather than 16, as reported on February 22.

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22CS5240/05T	26CS5774/05R	56KS5418/05R
22CS5350/05T	26CS5793/05R	56KS5447/05T
22CS5735/05T	27CS6895/05R	56KS5457/05T
22CS5740/05T	37CS5600/05S	56KS5487/05T
22CS5744/05R	V6820/05	*66cm Models*
22CS5748/05R	V6821/05R	66KS4808/05T
22CS5750/05T	V6851/05R	66KS5702/05T
22CS5751/05T	*Dynatron 22"*	66KS5787/05T
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هكذا من الأصل

Ark is ready, but will people be saved?

■ Experts say a predicted tidal surge is unlikely to bring heavy flooding to the east coast. Residents are taking no chances

By Libby Purves

"VISIT the River Alde by sail or power," says the notice by Russell Upson's boatyard at Aldeburgh. But in a chill, overcast late winter there are few visitors, and those who live in the low marshy regions along the east coast are rather more concerned about the River Alde visiting them instead.

Two weeks ago, a high tide accompanied by strong northerly winds — the classic east coast indicators for disaster, only too well remembered from the great flood of 1953 — brought a surge of water. Mr Upson's steel boathouse, custom-built with the greenhouse effect in mind, is a river landmark and a model of prudence sometimes referred to as Upson's Ark. It has waist-high flood doors and an office tucked up on a high internal gallery. But on February 22 the river swirled over the flood doors, necessitating constant pumping, while behind it the waves skipped the shingle sea-wall and lapped around the grounded yachts.

Next week's tide, peaking on Tuesday, could be higher because of the lunar perigee, the close approach of the full moon. "My wife says I'm not worth living with anyway at high tides, but this moon business is something we've never had before in my lifetime," said Mr Upson. "We just have to hope we don't get a north wind." Despite £300 million worth of flood defences erected in the past decade, everybody knows that faced with millions of tons of sea water, all you can do is get out of the way.

Senior officials of the Storm Tide warning service emerged yesterday from a four-hour meeting at Bracknell, Berkshire, and said they could not discount a vicious wind-whipped tidal surge along the east coast next week. But Ian Pratt, manager of the service, set up after the 1953 floods, said that the combination of high tides and adverse weather conditions required for flooding were unlikely to occur. "We would have to be unlucky to get our forecast badly wrong," he said.

Along the Norfolk coast the art of escape is practised constantly. Police, National Rivers Authority and Broads Authority launches lie ready for evacuations. Wartime sirens are kept oiled and tested, and there is an army of voluntary flood wardens. Elsie Pitt of Great Yarmouth is on standby for next week following the Meteorological Office warning yesterday that east coast flood defence should be kept on full alert. "When the police call, we meet at the church hall then go out in twos to every house, to warn people and help them take valuables, torches, food and drink upstairs. Keeping tide tables is part of life for us."

Mrs Pitt is not expecting panic during the next few days of waiting. "People round here are very philosophical. Bit too much so, actually. They never think it will be them."

At the Lady of the Lake pub in Oulton Broad, near Britain's most easterly point, they know perfectly well that it will be them. Two weeks ago Pamela Fitzpatrick, the manageress, was woken by a flood warning. "By lunchtime the cellar was full of water, thousands of pounds worth of beer ruined. It was two feet deep in the bar, wrecked the carpets and plaster, and put tidemarks on the legs of the furniture. The beer has been renewed already by the owners. I don't know if that was a good move or not, considering next week."

"Woodbridge got that new river wall, damn knows what that cost," observed an Aldeburgh resident. "What do we get? Couple of sandbags." A few are even muttering outside the town clerk's office about the Wrong Sort of Sandbags. Those made from old-fashioned hessian apparently mould themselves into cracks better than the new synthetic bags. Jealous eyes are being cast at neighbours' doorsteps.

TONY WHITE



Keeping wet fish dry: sandbags outside a fishmonger's in the Suffolk town of Aldeburgh. The town fears £300 million worth of flood defences are not enough

Graffiti vandal 'too costly to jail'

By Louise Hidalgo

A GRAFFITI vandal involved in causing damage to London Underground trains estimated to have cost hundreds of thousands of pounds walked smiling from a London court yesterday after a judge said that it was not in the public interest to imprison him.

The decision was greeted with disappointment by London Underground, which called for graffiti to be treated as vandalism and a serious offence. A spokesman said: "We feel such sentences are lenient, and stiffer penalties are wanted."

Declan Rooney, 20, was ordered by Southwark Crown Court to pay £1,500 compensation and was given 12 months' probation. Seven co-defendants received community service sentences of between 150 and 230 hours, and compensation orders ranging from £350 to £1,500.

Judge Rucker said that their actions arose from "immaturity rather than criminality".

The judge told them: "You have already cost the community very dear. With court appearances, the investigation and the damage, you have cost literally hundreds of thousands of pounds. It is not in the public interest that the community should pay even more money by putting you in custody."

Judge Rucker said that it was time they did "some heavy repaying in the form of unpaid work and compensation" and that he would be keeping "tabs" on them.



Rooney: "I'm laughing. It's a soft touch"

Even before leaving court, Rooney, a barman, of Clapton, east London, pulled off his tie in celebration, unbuttoned his collar, and grinned continuously. As he left, he said: "My barrister's a genius. I'm laughing. It's a soft touch."

Rooney, whose signature or "tag", Acrid, has become a familiar sight to commuters throughout the capital, earlier admitted hundreds of paint spraying raids on the Underground. He is described by police as a "graffiti addict".

Rooney and his fellow defendants were arrested after a five-month operation by a special graffiti squad set up by British Transport Police. Rooney was on bail at the time and has three previous convictions for graffiti vandalism.

Solicitor plundered almost £5m

By A Staff Reporter

A LEADING solicitor who plundered clients' accounts and cheated financial institutions of nearly £5 million was jailed for seven years yesterday.

Philip Englefield, who left his firm's reputation in tatters, used some of the money to pay his child's school fees and clear credit card bills, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Judge Butler told Englefield, 49, that his two years of dishonesty amounted to a "cynical betrayal of trust" of his clients and partners.

None of the £4.7 million he either stole or misappropriated had been recovered, the court was told. "Your own benefit was limited to the lesser amount of £827,500. But what has happened to all this money is far from clear," Judge Butler said.

Mark Wyeth, for the prosecution, said Englefield had "dishonestly abused the trust that large numbers of his clients had placed in his firm, Boyce, Evans and Sheppard".

Englefield, of Knightsbridge, London, admitted ten charges involving theft, false accounting and procuring the execution of valuable securities between December 1987 and May 1990.

His "mire of deceit" was uncovered only when the firm computerised its clients' accounts. Englefield was now bankrupt and struck off.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The drooping spires

"Oxford has been the traditional breeding ground of political leaders – successive cabinets have been stuffed full of its graduates. Oxford



was founded first, it was royalist, it was the mirror of princes. Cambridge was less worldly. But then suddenly there was talk of a Cambridge mafia . . ."

Martin Jacques on the shift in political dominance from Oxford to Cambridge – in The Sunday Times tomorrow

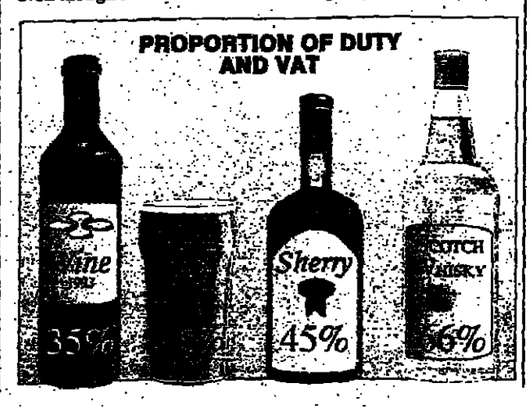
Drinks industry calls for round of tax cuts

By Robin Young

THE drinks industry, a traditional target for the Chancellor in the Budget, is hoping he will call time on tax increases and order cuts all round this year. The Scotch Whisky Association has six lobbyists pushing its claim that the industry is being crippled by discriminatory taxation: a pub measure of whisky is taxed at 23p, compared with 12p for a glass of wine.

Demand for scotch has been going down faster than a dram, from 14.5 million cases in 1979 to 10.5 million now. In that time, sales of wine have increased markedly and now average 13 litres a head, even though tax on wines and spirits in Britain is the second highest in the European Community, surpassed only by Ireland.

Meanwhile, both wine and beer retailers are threatened by the growing volume of personal imports from France, where effective rates of tax are much lower. Last year it was estimated that 6 per cent of beer consumed at home was brought into Britain in duty-free allowances. The single market will exacerbate the situation for many independent off-licences near the Channel ports, which are crying out for a lowering of taxation in Britain to stop them going out of business.



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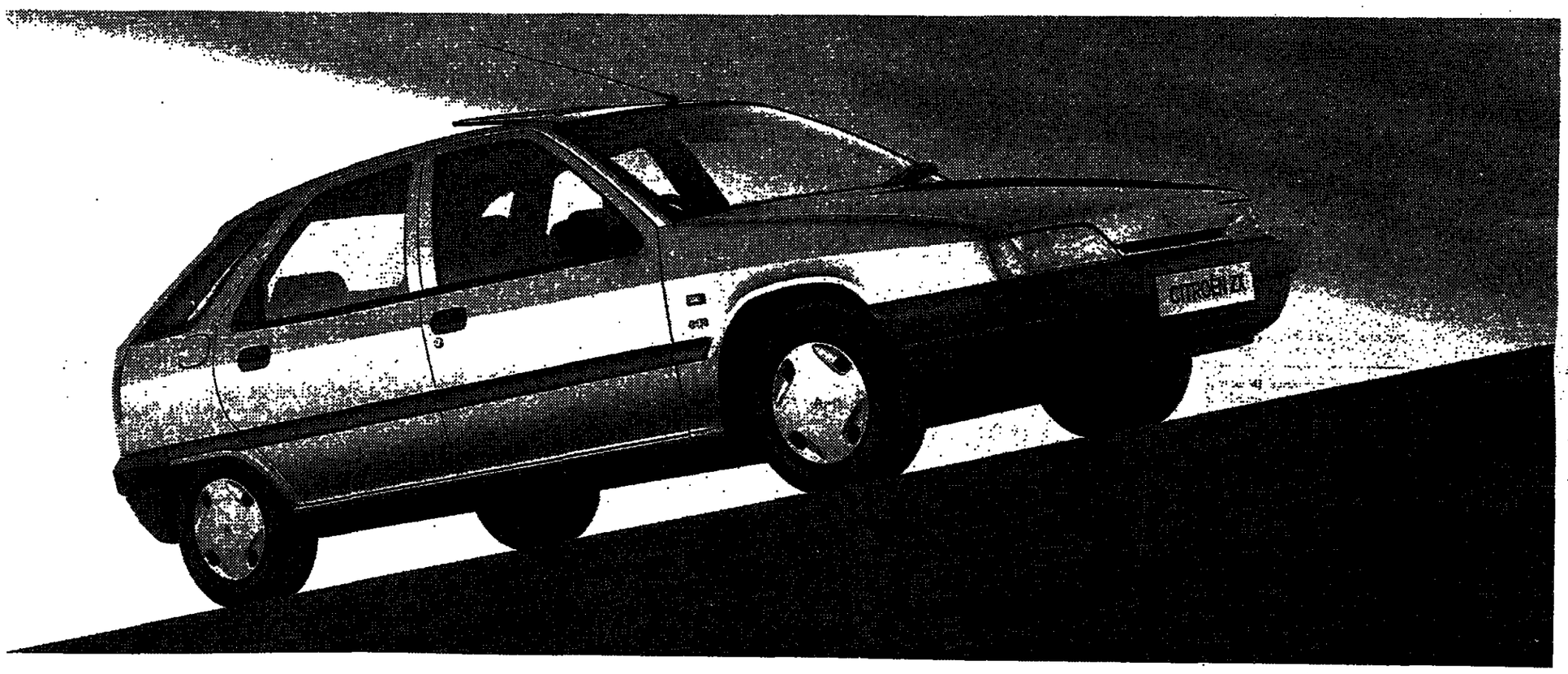
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MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£211.57	£252.09	£227.35
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In a Commons career spanning 33 years, Nicholas Ridley was never a populist

Prickly facade hid brilliant architect of Thatcherism

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

NICHOLAS Ridley was never a conventional career politician. While highly successful by any standards — in the Commons for nearly 33 years, and in the cabinet for almost seven — he was too outspoken and at times too prickly to fit in to any trend or fashion.

He was always more of an aristocratic Whig, suspicious of the powers of the state, than a traditional One Nation Tory believer in a paternalist government.

Disdainful of many of the artifices of political public relations, Lord Ridley of Liddesdale was as far as can be imagined from the eager careerist trying to climb the political ladder and trimming his views accordingly. He was never politically correct, and will be remembered mainly for his dislike of cant and humbug. He disliked "do-gooders" telling people what to do, particularly over drinking and smoking, both of which he enjoyed. The nanny state never appealed to him, and he was always more of a libertarian on personal matters than many of his fellow Tory MPs.

Lord Ridley was never willing to mouth the conventional pieties, always preferring the path of what he saw as truth. That bluntness endeared him to close colleagues and friends, including civil servants who respected his intellectual honesty and decisiveness.

But it did not endear him to the public; as John Major commented yesterday, his "personality in private was so different from his public image". He could appear cold and indifferent to people's problems and was disliked by some colleagues for being too intellectually aloof.

His outspokenness often landed him in trouble. For instance, he faced widespread opposition in the Commons when he returned from the Falklands in 1980 convinced that the only long-term solution was some sort of agreement with Argentina.

He may have been right on the issue, but he failed to use the political arts needed to win his case. There were similar incidents throughout his ministerial career, culminating in his characteristic remarks about the Germans and the European Commission in an interview with *The Spectator* which forced his resignation in July 1990.

In time, Lord Ridley will be regarded as among the most important architects of what is popularly known as Thatcherism, alongside Lord Joseph, Lord Howe of Aberavon, Lord Lawson of Blaby and Lord Tebbit. His main contribution was his intellectual cutting edge, whether challenging the Heath government's U-turn over industrial policy in 1972, contributing to the Conservatives' rethink in the late 1970s, or helping to redefine the role of the state in the 1980s.

He laid the ground more than is generally recognised for the privatisation programme of the mid-1980s. He was always more influential behind the scenes — in Whitehall and in late night drinks with Margaret Thatcher — than as a popular public figure, which limited both his role and his ambitions.

In the end, Lord Ridley looks more of a figure from the eras of aristocratic intellectual politicians than from Mr Major's classless age. He was prepared to question, to challenge, but never to conform.

Tributes, page 1
Diary, page 16
Obituary, page 19





A singular vision: whether cocking a snook at the health lobby or working behind the scenes at Docklands in 1971, Lord Ridley was an influential player

1929: born Feb 17, younger son of third Viscount Ridley. Educated Eton and Balliol, Oxford.
1954: Company director Brims and Co, Newcastle.
1955: Contested Blyth for Tories in general election.
1959-92: Represented Cirencester and Tewkesbury.
1962-4: PPS to education minister.
1962-6: Member UK delegation to Council of Europe and WEU.
1969-70: Opposition spokesman on science and technology.
1970: Under secretary technology ministry.
1970-2: Under secretary, trade and industry.
1979-81: Minister of State, Foreign Office.
1981-3: Financial secretary to the Treasury.
1983-6: Secretary of State for Transport.
1986-89: Secretary of State for the Environment.
1989-90: Secretary of State, Trade and Industry.
1990: Resigns from government.
1992: Does not contest election, created Baron Ridley of Liddesdale. Married twice, three daughters from first marriage.

The troublemaker who feared nobody

BY GRAHAM PATERSON

LORD Ridley's final article appeared in *The Times* on Wednesday. He wrote it from his home in Cumbria, wheezing a little on the telephone as he dictated corrections, but driven as always by an absolute, undying need to communicate his political vision.

He wrote for this newspaper because he was too weak to stand long enough to make speeches. He wrote because even the briefest television interviews drained his strength. Last month, I had a convivial lunch with him in the House of Lords when he said, cigarette defiantly clamped in hand, that he felt his contribution to national debate could now only come from his journalism. He was determined to pursue every Tory or Opposition sacred cow. It was all written in the shadow of pain and exhaustion: but he was free of the whips and the conventions of office.

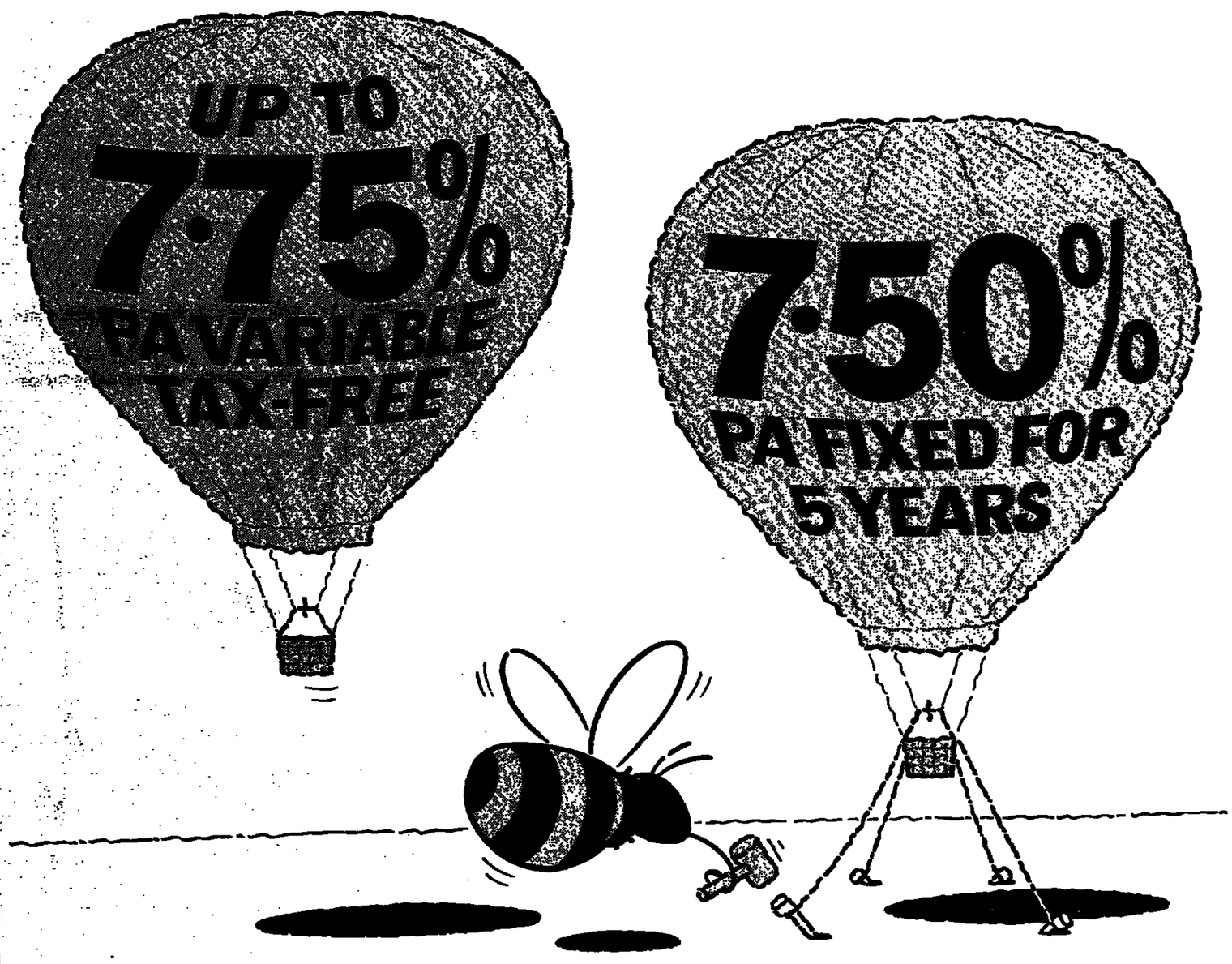
A wicked political gossip, he thought little of John Major's administration. In his eyes most ministers were naive, misguided children too craven and short-sighted to understand the stupidity of the policies they parroted. A political class at Westminster and Whitehall had, he believed, spent a life-time concealing national decline and hiding in Europe's skirts, rather than confronting it. A free-trading English nationalist, he felt betrayed by political place servers and bureaucrats toadying to Europe.

Most of Fleet Street wanted his comments when London and Bonn came into head-on conflict over the exchange-rate mechanism last October. Ridley was by then seriously unwell, but had agreed many months before to make a private speech in Brighton. He still managed to write a 1,100 word article for *The Times* in the back of his car to London, where he was catching a six o'clock train to Carlisle. I met him at the station, a handful of unreadable scribbles in his hand. We walked down to the train where the guard greeted him as a long lost friend. Of course, said the guard, we could run through the article. "I don't minding holding the train for Lord Ridley."

In that piece he recalled his warnings about the ERM and German domination of the British economy. "I used words which did not elegantly express those views," he said, recalling the interview which led to his resignation, "for which I paid the price."

As a journalist he was a troublemaker afraid of nobody. The same qualities of courage and clear sight cost him his job as a politician.

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High Court given ten extra judges to cope with backlog

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRA ten High Court judges, who will automatically receive knighthoods, are to be appointed as soon as possible, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, announced yesterday.

The move aims to resolve the increasingly heated dispute between the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, over what the latter has called "deplorable" delays in the High Court.

There are 83 High Court judges at present, whose salary rises on April 1 from £87,620 a year to £90,147. There is a statutory limit of 85 on the number which can be appointed, so the proposal to appoint ten more requires parliamentary and Privy Council approval. Officials expect the appointments to be made in the second half of this year.

The announcement follows an unprecedented survey into judges' working practices and hours set up by the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice jointly under Lord Justice Kennedy.

On several occasions, Lord Taylor has spoken out about the shortage of High Court judges which is causing delays of nearly two years in hearings for some kinds of cases such as judicial review, where individuals seek to challenge government decisions.

He has also expressed concern about the injustice of defendants languishing in prison awaiting appeals before the Court of Appeal criminal division which might lead to the quashing of their convictions.

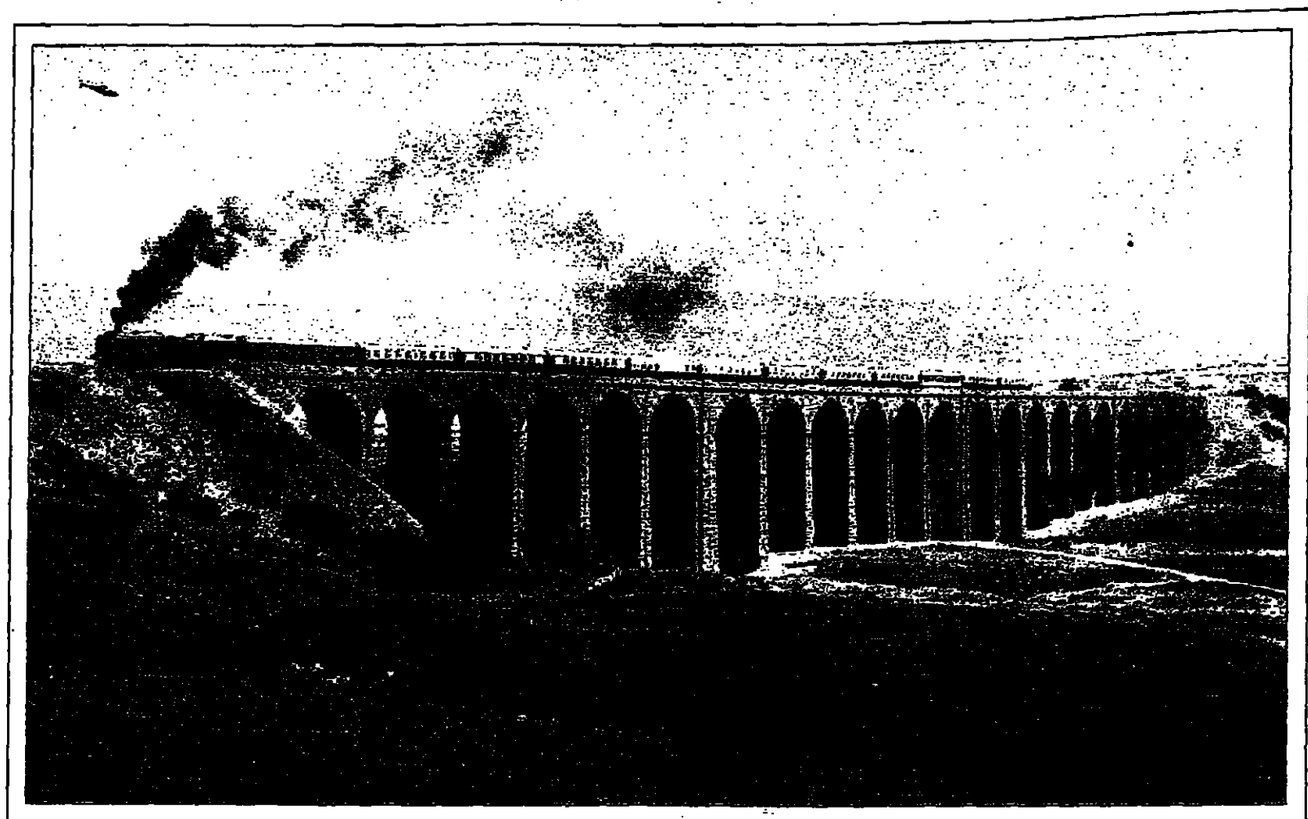
At the same time the commercial court, which in the past has been a model of efficiency, has been suffering acute shortages and unprecedented delays in the hearing of disputes.

News of the appointments came 24 hours after the prime minister declared an overhaul of the centuries-old honours system, including an end to most automatically conferred knighthoods. High Court judges would retain such knighthoods on appointment, Mr Major said, to "preserve the independence of the bench".

A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor said yesterday: "If judges were not given their knighthoods automatically, the distribution of knighthoods could be seen as a comment on their judging ability."

☐ Current high levels of concern about offences committed on bail made it crucial for courts to be given full information when deciding whether to grant bail, the Lord Chancellor said.

Lord Mackay told the Association of Chief Probation Officers that it was of "critical importance" that courts be given "timely, adequate, reliable and objective information on the factors for and against a grant of bail". Where bail information schemes existed, it was vital that courts had confidence in them.



Out of puff: The *Flying Scotsman*, seen crossing the Ribblehead viaduct in Yorkshire, has been stopped in its tracks midway through a national tour after engineers declared it unsafe. Thousands of rail enthusiasts were expected to gather today at Llangollen Steam Railway, in north Wales, to ride behind the famous engine, which was the first to break the 100mph barrier. Instead they will be able only to view the locomotive, now in its 70th year, which has corroded boiler tubes. It is likely to be out of action for several months.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Artist wins damages

Adrian George, the artist, yesterday won £80,252 High Court damages from his landlords whose delay in fixing a leaking roof led to the destruction of some of his work.

Mr George, 48, an award-winning stamp designer whose illustrations appear in *The Times*, had two pictures intended for exhibition and 30 drawings intended as a bequest to his son damaged by the leak while he was away from the flat in Paddington, west London.

The damages with costs were awarded against Alonaville Ltd of Finchley Road, northwest London.

Boy killed

A nine-year-old boy died and his father and a neighbour were injured when a blast wrecked their garage in Great Sutton, Cheshire. The man was draining the petrol tank of his car when an explosion caused a fire.

Strike ends

More than 1,300 shipyard workers at Yarrows in Glasgow voted by four to one to end a four-week strike, accepting a marginally improved pay offer rejected a week ago.

Delayed burial

The body of Kenneth Lynn, who killed his wife and whose burial beside her was halted by her brother's blockade, was buried 30 yards away at Lingwood, Norfolk.

Dr Clinton

The proposal that President Clinton should receive an Oxford honorary degree of civil law was unopposed by the university's congregation of professors yesterday.

Hartlepool team goes for broke

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

PRAYERS will be said in Hartlepool at 3pm today. Recession and unemployment have taken their toll on the town, but there is far worse: the local football team holds an unenviable record for failing to score.

The second division club has gone 13 matches or 1,176 minutes without scoring a goal. At Blackpool this afternoon the club will hope to break its dismal run, but few back in Hartlepool will be banking on it. Hartlepool has scored only once this year, on January 2 from a penalty.

Until then United — holders of another unwanted record of applying to the Football League for re-election 14 times after finishing bottom of the league — had been enjoying one of their best seasons and were challenging for promotion to the first division for the first time.

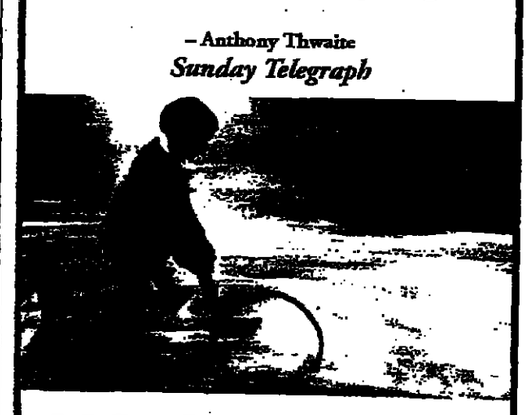
The club was also caught offside in the High Court and wound up for debts of £250,000 in late January after failing to pay the supplier of transparent plastic hoods for the ground's dugouts. Bigger debts were owed, but United raised the cash and the winding up order was rescinded in February.

By then the goal drought had begun and Alan Murray, Hartlepool's manager, paid the price. His departure resulted in the appointment of Viv Busby, the former Fulham striker, who has now presided over three goalless games.

Mr Busby was philosophical: "This is my first managerial job and I've already broken a record. Everyone in the town is talking about what we should do. I'm sure there'll be a good few drinks downed, and not just in Hartlepool, when we finally do score."

Football, page 35

"Moore's finest achievement"
– Anthony Thwaite
Sunday Telegraph



NO OTHER LIFE
by
BRIAN MOORE
BLOOMSBURY

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

THIS CHEMICAL ENGINEER IS BLIND. OBVIOUSLY HIS BOSS ISN'T.



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EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Cabinet divisions coincide with meeting by constituency activists to assess party's performance

Dirty tricks claimed as Tories tussle over Lamont's job

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Conservatives have become embroiled in an extraordinary bout of infighting over the rival claims of cabinet *ministers in John Major's next* reshuffle.

With speculation persisting that Norman Lamont will be moved from the Treasury in the summer, supporters of the competing claimants for the *post are jostling for position.*

Friends of Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, have taken the unusual step of denying what they say are completely erroneous reports that he has told Mr Major he has no interest in becoming Chancellor of the Exchequer.

A series of reports purporting to describe Mr Clarke's position have appeared in recent weeks, but according to well-placed sources they were "mythical and mischievous".

Amid suggestions of a dirty tricks campaign, it is being emphasised that there has been no such conversation between Mr Major and Mr Clarke and that if the post became vacant Mr Clarke would clearly be a contender.

Mr Major is reported to accept that Mr Clarke, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, and John MacGregor, the transport secretary, are the leading candidates for Chancellor, even though the prime minister has not yet decided whether Mr Lamont will be replaced in a reshuffle.

Friends of Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, and Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary and one of the right's candidates for the Treasury, are voicing fury over the leaking last weekend of their attendance at a lunch with Baroness Thatcher, the former prime minister.

At first Westminster insiders believed the gathering — said to have been "totally innocent" and recorded in the office diaries of the two ministers — had been leaked to undermine Mr Major's position. Now the finger of suspicion is pointed at other ministers who knew of the lunch and who, it is alleged, were out to damage Mr Lilley and Mr Portillo, seen as successes in the current administration.

In the atmosphere of intrigue pervading at Westminster, Mr Howard's friends are also angry at what they see as an attempt to damage his right-wing credentials by suggesting that he has "gone native" at the environment department in his espousal of "green taxes" and other environmentalist policies.

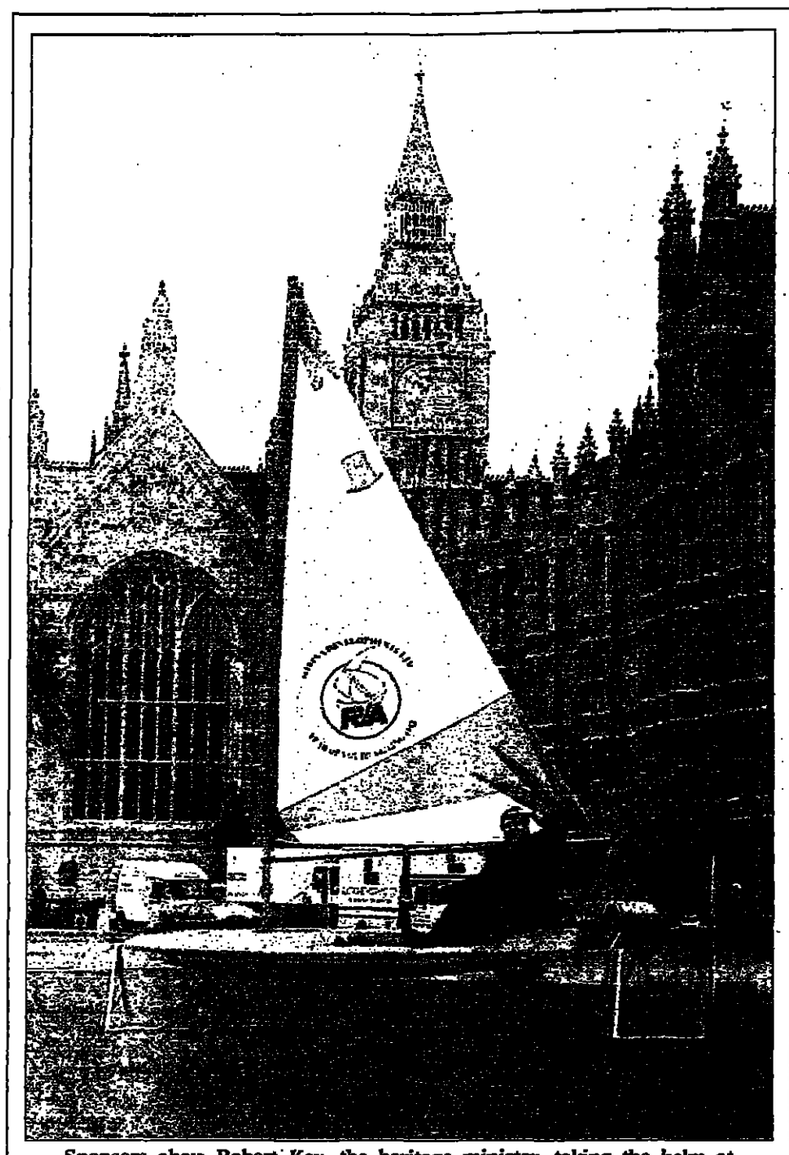
The latest twist came with yesterday's disclosure in *The Times* that Mr Clarke and Mr Howard, the chief candidates of the left and right for the job of Chancellor, are at odds over long-term taxation policy, with Mr Clarke believing that green taxes would damage the prospects of an industrial recovery.

When he was a junior minister, Mr Clarke is reported to have told his closest friends that if he had a choice of cabinet posts he would favour the chancellorship, followed by foreign secretary and home secretary. That remains his order of priorities, according to his close friends, although he is thought to be in *no hurry to move from the* Home Office.

Mr Major's closest allies still believe that he may hand the chancellorship to Mr MacGregor. The transport secretary, whose abilities Mr Major *has long admired, would be* seen as a compromise choice whose appointment would not upset the left or right.

Mr Lamont, meanwhile, has served notice that he will not go without a fight. It is understood that once he has emerged from his pre-Budget purdah he intends to take a higher profile at Westminster.

Unity call, page 1



Sponsors ahoy: Robert Key, the heritage minister, taking the helm at Westminster after granting £45,000 to the Royal Yachting Association's youth sailing scheme, which attracted the same amount in sponsorship

Hurd demands end to treaty feuding

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS Hurd called on the Tory party to raise its eyes above the "trench warfare" of the Maastricht bill yesterday.

The foreign secretary told the central council meeting in Harrogate that Britain should be preparing for the bigger *challenge that lay ahead after* Maastricht and for the 1996 inter-governmental conference that would lay the foundations for the wider European Community of the next century.

Mr Hurd told constituency activists that to be ready in 1996 to argue for Britain's goal of a de-centralised, wider, free trading and outward looking Community, "we should begin to train now, not scratch our entry in a spasm of shivering self-doubt". The argument about Maastricht "should be brought to an end before the end of this summer. The debate is necessary, but so long as it lingers on, our party is divided, our country unable to pull its weight. It is in the national interest that we ratify the treaty. Let's get on with it."

Continuing the heavyweight assault on the Tory rebels, Mr Hurd said the *government's aim was to com*plete ratification by the summer. He added: "This is not a parliamentary game to be played out on the basis of personal feuds, regrets or prejudices, regardless of the consequences for Britain."

If Britain were to sink the treaty, British ministers would be reduced to "bit part players" in deliberations about the future direction of the EC. "There would be no inclination to dance to a British tune if we had just duffed up the orchestra," he said. In addition, the progress that Britain had made on subsidiarity would be lost.

Maastricht tensions resurface

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEMANDS for the deselection of Conservative MPs defying the prime minister over Maastricht were voiced at the central council in Harrogate yesterday.

Rosalie Monbiot, from Michael Heseltine's Henley constituency, said: "People still feel the Conservatives are the only party, but they wish they would move a bit faster and have more sense of direction. We want a real grip on things and for the cabinet to show where they are going."

Party activists could help by turning the heat on the Eurosceptics, Mrs Monbiot said. "I have got no time for the Maastricht rebels. They should be deselected by their constituencies because they only got into Parliament because of John Major."

A conflicting view came from Wesley Abbey, a member of the Harrogate association. He said that MPs should be allowed to voice their opinions. "If their constituents feel Maastricht is wrong, then it's their duty to stand up and say so."

But Mrs Monbiot and Mr Abbey agreed over the economy. He said: "Things are getting better. I know people are still losing their jobs and that may go on for some time yet, but we have the chance of a gradual recovery."

Ifor Axworthy, former deputy chairman of Chester local party, said that while Mr Major lacked charisma, he deserved respect. "He has been proved right over Maastricht, but as soon as he can get that out of the way and get back to the proper business of government, the better."

Heseltine plays down hopes for pit rescue

BY NICHOLAS WOOD POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday sought to lower expectations about the outcome of his review of the pit closure programme.

In a clear hint that he is engaged in an uphill struggle to save a sizable number of the 31 threatened pits, the President of the Board of Trade said he was confronted by a "dilemma". The more pits he saved, the higher would be the cost to the taxpayer, energy customers or British industry.

"There are no cost-free options. A job saved in one industry can too easily be a job lost in another," Mr Heseltine told the central council.

His remarks came against a background of mounting evidence that the review of the closure programme, which would cost 30,000 mining jobs, is running into serious difficulties.

The power generating companies are reluctant to buy enough extra coal to ensure a viable future for most of the pits. But Tory MPs and the opposition parties are pressing Mr Heseltine to save at least 15 of the 31 collieries at risk. The timetable for an announcement, initially promised at the end of February, has slipped.

In what many MPs will see as a plea for greater realism about the potential shape of a rescue package, Mr Heseltine said: "I cannot make people buy coal. This is a free society. If they can import it more cheaply, they will do so. Who wouldn't? I can use taxpayers' money to pay the difference. The bills are huge. Someone has to pay. I share the Chancellor's views about the need to control public expenditure."



Heseltine: "I cannot make people buy coal"

Local workers reject leaders' new rules

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Conservative high command yesterday suffered a setback in its efforts to overhaul the party machine. Against a background of protests that Conservative Central Office is taking too many powers over local associations, activists rejected several proposed constitutional changes.

The tactics of grassroots dissidents in preparation for the Conservative central council meeting were criticised by Sir Basil Feldman, chairman of the National Union executive committee and architect of the reforms. He said that the Charter Movement, a campaign for more democracy in the party, had made "monstrous and mischievous" allegations, and rejected claims that the changes could allow Central Office to raid associations' funds.

Sharon Spiers, of Charter, said that the changes had been rejected because the party hierarchy had failed to respond to pressure for Central Office to be more accountable to the rank and file. The most important of the five changes rejected by the central council would have given the National Union, umbrella body for local associations, more control over them.

Reforms accepted give constituency chairmen more say in national committees. Activists rejected a challenge to the party command that called for three of the party's proposed management board to be elected by the central council.

Activists who hold office

THE Conservative central council is the twice-yearly general meeting of the voluntary wing of the party and a mini-party conference. It is attended by the officers of more than 600 local party associations and its decisions determine *the constitution of the national* union — the umbrella body making up the voluntary side of the party.

The parliamentary party and the full-time staff employed by central office complete the triangle. Some 1,000 activists are expected to attend the Harrogate meeting.

Ministers admit everything is not splendid on Europe

THE Tory leadership has at last dropped the pretence that everything is going well with the Maastricht bill.

The speeches to the central council meeting in Harrogate by Norman Fowler, Douglas Hurd and Michael Heseltine and to a packed fringe meeting by a typically rumbustious Kenneth Clarke all reflected the growing frustration of the *government with the slow rate* of progress of the bill in the Commons. But they do not know what to do.

The committee stage has lasted 14 days. Only about half the amendments have *been considered, with several* of the most contentious, including the powers of the central bank and a referendum, as well as the vote on the social chapter, still lying ahead. Not only has time been *taken up but tempers have* been soured by the refusal of up to 50 Tory MPs, including a hard core of about 25, to back the government.

Senior ministers fear that the government's general position is being damaged by these prolonged debates and the associated splits. Mr Heseltine argued yesterday that "week after week the House of Commons is sending a signal to the ouside world that is gravely prejudicial to British interests".

In a typically authoritative performance, Mr Hurd laid out the risks of failing to ratify the treaty and warned that "so long as the debate lingers on, our party is divided and our country is unable to pull its weight". Ministers also fear that their efforts in education, health and urban policy are largely being overshadowed by the row over the bill.

Those admissions by ministers of the current difficulties represent a change of tack from the "everything is going splendidly" message of January and February. But expressions of frustration will not solve the problem.

For the moment, government business managers have rejected the option of doing more than talking toughly. The option of withdrawing the whip from persistent rebels *has been ruled out since it* would just create highly publicised martyrs without changing any votes. Since the central council is a gathering of party activists, there were appeals yesterday to proper conduct rather than threats. The rebels were portrayed as tiresome boat rockers guilty of the ultimate Tory sin of disloyalty to party and country. Sir *Norman was explicit: "We* cannot be loyal just on certain days of the week. We cannot choose to support our leaders on some issues in the manifesto and attack them on others."

The leadership's hopes rest on peer group pressure: that the mounting frustrations of the majority of Tory MPs and the disquiet of constituency activists at the disloyalty of a minority will persuade at least the outer core of the rebels to toe the line. The hard core will *never be persuaded to back the* bill, but if the rebels are cut to about two dozen the government should win procedural motions, with the backing of the Liberal Democrats, and so accelerate passage of the bill.

The government cannot rely on tactics of evasion and patience forever. Senior ministers yesterday raised the stakes. They now have to get the bill approved this summer to restore the credibility of Mr Major and the government.

PETER RIDDELL



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To make that water even purer, brighter and better-tasting, we're spending £450 million on advanced water treatment such as Granular Activated Carbon filters.

The environment?





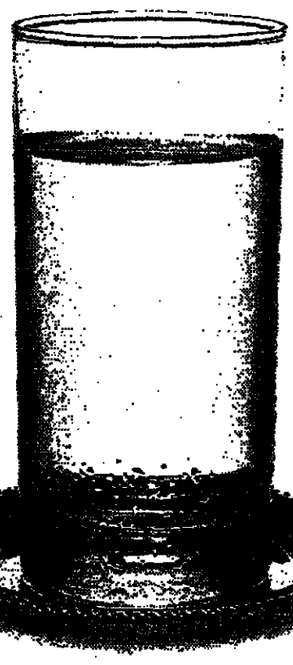
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Water shortages?



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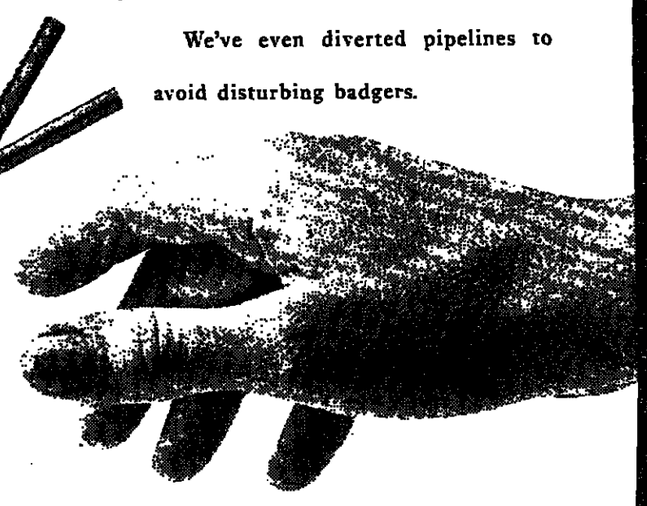
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Patten asks churches to devise syllabus for religious education

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

THE education secretary is to ask church leaders to help strengthen religious education in schools by drawing up a national blueprint for lessons.

John Patten told a Conservative party meeting in Folkestone yesterday that religious education was vital in teaching children the difference between right and wrong and was too important to be left as an optional "add-on".

At present, the content of RE lessons is determined locally by church, school and local authority representatives. Mr Patten proposed a national model syllabus be developed to assist them.

The move comes amid national debate about the moral values of young people, particularly in the wake of the James Bulger murder. Conservative backbenchers and school inspectors say that many RE syllabuses are too vague and have not been satisfactorily updated since the 1988 Education Reform Act required lessons to reflect the mainly Christian tradition of the country.

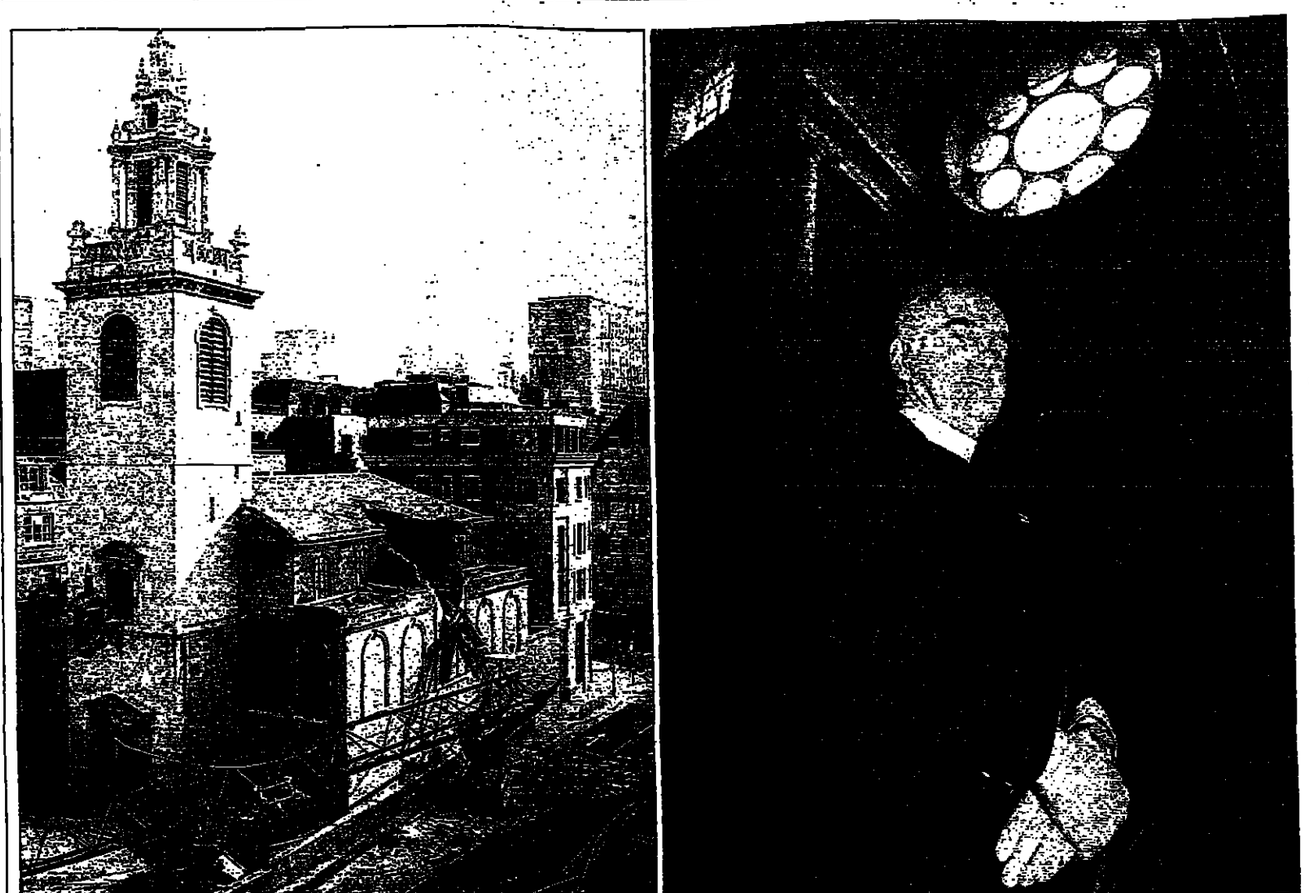
Mr Patten, a practising Roman Catholic, said too many children were leaving school without a strong enough sense of values. "All too often I am told that religious education is sidelined in some schools. Where it does take place, the teaching can be confused and the quality poor. I am determined to see that both the quality and the consistency of religious education is improved.

"Children are not to blame if we are unclear in our expectations about behaviour, and if they are not taught about the difference between right and wrong. We must help them grow up with positive values at home and at school. Religious education must be at the heart of that process."

Mr Patten said he was writing to Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, and to Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi for their views on two possible ways of guiding local bodies: either setting up a national conference of religious leaders and teachers to draw up a model syllabus, or asking the new School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the successor to the National Curriculum Council, to develop a national blueprint after widespread consultation with the churches and other faiths.

Mr Patten said: "Religious education has a vital role to play. It is not an optional add-on. Rather, it should be seen as a fundamental part of school life, providing an essential opportunity for the undertaking of moral and spiritual values, and the difference between what is good and what is bad."

A spokesman for the Church of England said: "The board of education is very much encouraged by this initiative and hopes to respond positively."



Fully restored: a falling crane severely damaged St James Garlickhythe in 1991. Right, the Rev John Paul below the new rose window

Brighter era shines for Wren's Lantern

EIGHTEEN months after a 170ft crane crashed through its roof, the Wren church of St James Garlickhythe in the City of London is to reopen for Sunday worship. A complex restoration programme, begun last July, was completed at the end of February and services recommence tomorrow (Ruth Gledhill writes). The church, known as Wren's Lantern because of its many windows, will be rededicated this year.

A church has stood on the site since 1259. The present church was built by Sir Christopher Wren after the great fire of 1666. In September 1991, a crane working on an office development fell and its concrete counterbalance plummeted through the roof of the south transept, demolishing the vaulting and rose window. It plunged through the floor and came to rest in a 20ft by 40ft crater.

A replica has been made of the rose window, the interior repainted, tablets and memorials restored, the foundations strengthened, the exterior repaired and a new roof put on.

The vicar, the Rev John Paul, reported an unexpected bonus from the accident: the congregation, which has been meeting at St Michael Paternoster Royal, has doubled from 50 to about 100, possibly because of the publicity. Sunday services will now be held weekly instead of monthly.

Church services, page 18
At Your Service, Weekend, page 7

Credo

Save the family to save our children

Jonathan Sacks

The first response to tragedy is shock. The second is sombre reflection. Following the brutal murder of two-year-old James Bulger, we have been gripped by a rare mood of moral introspection, and we must not let the moment pass without answering the questions we have begun to ask. The narrow question concerns juvenile crime. But it belongs within the wider context of childhood and the family in Britain today.

The facts are grim. Three of every ten children are born outside marriage. One in five is brought up in a one-parent family. Almost four in ten marriages end in divorce. A vicar in Newcastle told me that for years he had gone into local schools to teach children about "God our Father". Now he can do so no longer because the children do not understand the word. Not the word "God" but the word "father".



When the family disintegrates, who suffers? Mothers left to cope alone on social security. But above all, the children. The evidence is overwhelming that children of broken, single-parent or destabilised families are severely disadvantaged. Their chances are blighted from the start.

The worst thing we could do now would be to get lost in an argument about who is to blame: the individual or society, politicians or religious leaders. What we need is imagination, not recrimination. We need a national, even international, debate about the future of the family to rival the debate on the future of the environment. How can we devote our energies to saving planet earth for future generations while neglecting our own children who *are* our future generations?

It is here that religious leaders should take the lead. The family may be a secular institution but it is rooted in biblical values: marriage, fidelity, responsibility and the covenant of love. The book of Genesis begins with the command to have and care for children, because without responsible parents there cannot be a responsible society. Without caring parents there cannot be a caring society. Can we save the family? Pessimists say no. How can we expect children who have never known a loving relationship to enter into one when they grow up? How can children become responsible parents when they have had no role models to imitate? That is the pessimistic scenario, but I reject it absolutely. Pessimism is not an argument, only an excuse for defeat. Worse: it is an absence of faith, faith in humanity as the image of God. If we can save the environment, then we can save the family. But we need the same determination in both cases. We must think long-term. We must resist politicisation of the debate. And we must avoid trivialisation of deep moral issues as if they could be captured in a sound-bite, a 30-second burst of revelation.

The past few weeks have shown us that there is enough concern nationwide to produce a rare moment of consensus. Now is the time for political and religious leaders to rise about the boundaries of party and denomination and unite in a truly national campaign to promote the family as the crucible of all our values. In the 1980s, ecology captured our imagination. In the 1990s, the family must do likewise.

I believe that the family can be saved. For the sake of our children it *must* be saved.

☐ *Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth*

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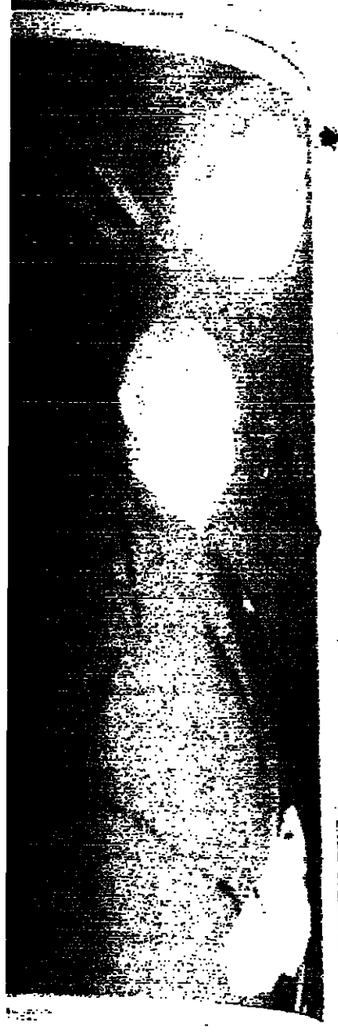
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Brighter era for Wren's La

tl'redo

Congress meeting called

Deputies intensify Yeltsin pressure

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

■ Opponents of Russian reform will be gathering in Moscow next week in a further attempt to undermine presidential power

RUSSIA'S parliament yesterday called an emergency session of the country's supreme legislature to tackle the constitutional deadlock which is paralysing the government and eroding the authority of President Yeltsin.

Deputies voted overwhelmingly for an extraordinary session of the Congress of People's Deputies to be convened on Wednesday, a move which exposes the presidency to the risk of attack by hardliners. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister, chairing a cabinet meeting, said that the "very serious situation" demanded government unity and a clear strategy in the face of what he described as "an open offensive against the executive".

Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliamentary Speaker, yesterday said the "extremely aggressive behaviour of the executive authorities" was to blame for the impasse. The Speaker, who has stepped up his assaults on Mr Yeltsin over the past week, added: "The potential of this [government's] authority is all but exhausted."

Mr Khasbulatov openly aims to remove much of the president's power and establish the legislature as Russia's ruling force, claiming that a strong parliament is the only defence against dictatorship. Mr Yeltsin believes that the conservative parliament is undermining his government and sabotaging moves towards a market economy, and has hinted that he would be prepared to dissolve it and impose direct Kremlin rule to save democratic reform.

The Speaker dismissed Mr Yeltsin's latest proposal for compromise as an ultimatum unworthy of consideration. Mr Yeltsin had suggested transferring the central bank from parliamentary to government control and freezing constitutional changes to bring some political stability and hasten economic reforms.

Yesterday, Mr Yeltsin failed to respond to a demand by the Supreme Soviet to appear and explain why he had convened a meeting of the heads of Russia's military districts this week. In a curt message, he told the parliament that he was receiving the Finnish president. Opposition deputies construed that as an insult.

Mr Yeltsin has revived the idea of an April referendum on who rules Russia. Vladimir Shumeiko, a deputy prime minister, said the president would shortly announce the questions he wants included.

US-Russian summit, page 1
Leading article, page 17
Rothmans in Russia, page 21



Bouquet for barbed wire: a woman lays flowers at the tomb of Stalin, near the Kremlin wall in Moscow yesterday, the fortieth anniversary of his death

Scandal defendant chained in court

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

MAGISTRATES investigating the Italian corruption scandal were accused of Gestapo methods yesterday after a politician caught up in the affair was hauled into court in chains to face perjury charges.

Giovanni Conso, the justice minister, apologised to parliament for the humiliation inflicted on Enzo Carra, former spokesman for Arnaldo Forlani, the former secretary of the Christian Democrat party. Signor Carra appeared with his wrists manacled at the Milan tribunal.

The cabinet of Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, was discussing yesterday ways of containing the scandal. Mainstream party leaders clearly hoped the incident would turn public opinion in favour of some measure of clemency for suspects entangled in the scandal, perhaps including suspension of prison sentences for corruption offences and an end to preventive detention of suspects pending charges or while awaiting trial.

"Carra should not have been manacled," Signor Conso told the deputies. "He should not have been filmed by television crews. He should not have been put into such difficulties even before he had a chance to defend himself."

Signor Forlani, who himself was pushed out of the party secretary's job last year as the Christian Democrats sought to renew their image, criticised the Milan judges heading the enquiry. "The magistrates say that they have received good results with imprisonment. But with these methods the Gestapo also achieved certain results."

Since the "Clean Hands" corruption investigation began a year ago, at least 906 people, including a fifth of the 630 MPs in the Chamber of Deputies, have received an *avviso di garanzia* notifying them that they are being investigated by the magistrates. It is the biggest corruption scandal in Italy since the second world war.

Last night, Achille Occhetto, the leader of the opposition former Communist Democratic Party of the Left, repeated the fear that the coalition of Socialists, Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats — the parties worst hit by the scandal — would try to provide in effect a general amnesty for the corrupt.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Matisse claim dismissed

Paris: A Russian heiress laying claim to 14 Matisse paintings on show in Paris has failed to have them removed from the exhibition and the catalogue impounded.

Paris court said it was up to the Russian state, not the French justice system, to decide whether Irina Shchukin should win back ownership of her father's art collection which was taken over by the Soviet Communist authorities in 1918. *(Reuter)*

Battle kills 350

Luanda: More than 350 people died and 1,500 were injured in a fierce battle between Unita rebels and Angolan government forces in the city of Huambo, the army said. *(AFP)*

Korea amnesty

Seoul: South Korea will free or restore civil rights to about 40,000 dissidents and criminals, including the Rev Moon Ik Hwan, jailed in 1989 for visiting North Korea without permission. *(Reuter)*

Chid army

Geneva: A report to the United Nations human rights commission said that there are about 200,000 child soldiers serving worldwide. *(AP)*

Weak ending

Tokyo: Many Japanese are unhappy with their two-day weekend, complaining that going out made the longer break expensive and exhausting, a study claims. *(AP)*

UK rejects Brussels complaint on quotas

FROM REUTER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is contesting a European Commission complaint that it broke Community law by renewing national import quotas this year despite the creation of the single European market.

British diplomats said yesterday that the government had written to the Commission insisting that it had been politically and legally within its rights in deciding to carry forward into 1993 its annual quotas on imports from countries such as China, Mongolia and Vietnam, with centrally controlled trade. A Commission spokesman said Germany and The Netherlands, also accused of breaking the law, had asked for and been granted an additional two weeks in which to reply.

The Commission threatened last month to take the three governments to the European Court of Justice, saying that they should not have acted unilaterally to unblock imports from such trading countries. National import quotas by EC members should have ended on January 1, but attempts to replace them with a harmonised Community-wide system have been blocked for months by the Council of Ministers.

Britain, Germany and The Netherlands have been told by the Commission that they should have followed the example of some other countries in seeking permission from Brussels to carry forward the quota arrangements as an interim measure.

Kohl braced for far-right gains

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BONN

TH Iruling Christian Democrats and the opposition Socil Democrats expect to suffe stinging setbacks in locale lections in the Germanstate of Hesse tomorrow, and the established parts fear the far-right Repolicans may capitalise on acist sentiment to mak significant gains.

Th polls, the only in Gerany this year, are regaled as a test of the govenment's slipping popularity, and will set the tone for a marathon of 19 local, state European and general elctions next year. If the Repolicans, hovering at 4 per ent in opinion polls, mange to win 10 per cent of th vote, especially in Frankfurt, Helmut Kohl, the hancellor, will come unde pressure from critics in his Christian Democratic Union (CDU). The party fears that a spate of setbacks for the coalition in Bonn, including an unexpected rebuff to Herr Kohl from the CDU over motorway tolls, may be reflected in a further draining of support in the prosperous central state.

The Social Democrats, who are in power with the Greens in Hesse, have made a poor showing nationally, and have suddenly been hit by the re-emergence of a murky scandal that has cast a shadow over their leader, Björn Engholm, the prime minister of Schleswig-Holstein.

One of Herr Engholm's local ministers has just admitted that he handed over at a motorway rest-stop DM40,000 (£16,800) in cash to an assistant of Uwe Barschel, the state's former disgraced Christian Democrat prime minister, who was found dead in his bath in a Geneva hotel in 1987 after being accused of running a dirty tricks campaign against Herr Engholm. The minister has offered no credible reason for parting with what he says was his own money.



Rate cut, page 23
Porsche losses, page 23

TV commercials. How many of those do you see nowadays?

You know how it is. You're just settling in nicely to the big movie on TV when all of a sudden the hero freezes in mid-action. Oh no, it's the adverts again.

Yes, here they come for the n'th time: those unbearably dull folk with their lives ruled by coffee and washing powder and dogfood. Quick, where's the remote control? Flip channels for something – anything – to watch instead.

In this panic to escape the adverts, some of us have even been known to sit through two minutes of opera on BBC2. Thanks to high tech, it's getting easier and easier to avoid the ads. It's called zapping.

We'll soon have VCRs which automatically cut out the commercial breaks.

The very latest one records programmes and zaps adverts, and is operated just by talking to it.

All this is bad news for the advertisers who can pay millions of pounds for a few seconds of our attention on TV.

To make matters worse, there are so many commercial TV stations that it's hard for advertisers to know where best to place their adverts nowadays.

If they are serious about talking to us, they really should find a better way.

There's no better way than the way we're communicating right now, via the pages of our newspaper. The same high-technology that's killing commercials is giving a new lease of life to newspaper advertising.

The colour's a lot better than it used to be. Reproduction is excellent, and newspaper ads are still much cheaper and faster to produce than TV commercials.

Some newspapers are set up to receive advertisements, complete with photography and typesetting, beamed in over a phone line.

Best of all, from the advertiser's point of view, is that ads in newspapers get noticed. Take this one, for example. You've just spent a couple of minutes with it. Who knows? You may even be reading it during a commercial break.

USE THE POWER OF THE PRESS

This advertisement was placed by the Newspaper Publishers Association.



THE CAR IN FRONT OF THE BMW AND MERCEDES IS A TOYOTA CAMRY.

An experienced motoring journalist wrote in Autocar & Motor (Aug '92): "Here is a car that could scare the wits out of the opposition."

Which of the three cars above was he writing about? (Clue: he was comparing it with the BMW 525i.)

In another test, the same magazine declared that this car "makes the Mercedes look unreasonably costly."

Getting warmer?

Fast Lane (Aug '92) even compared it to a classic Jaguar: "This could well be what a Mk II Jaguar should feel like."

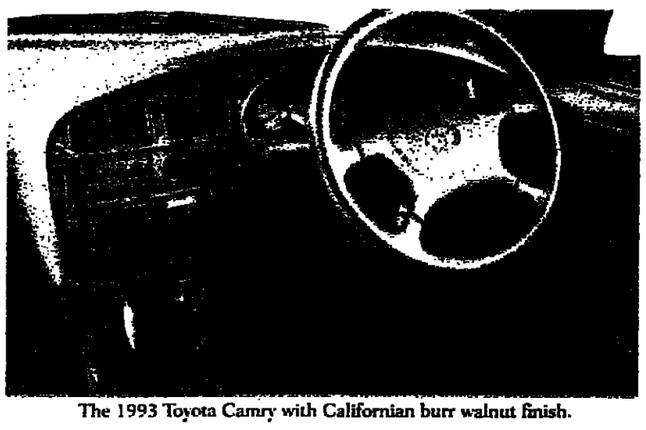
Which Car? (June '92) had the same thought: "Even owners of brand new Jaguars will be impressed here. It's very quiet at any speed, but at high speed there's barely a whisper under the bonnet."

They were, of course, all talking about the impeccable Toyota Camry.

The secret of its remarkable smoothness is a silky 24-valve 3.0 V6 engine, equipped with liquid-filled engine mounts to minimise vibration.

A resonator box induction system and two-way exhaust control valve activated by exhaust pressure reduce engine noise and tune the exhaust note.

Thank you Autocar & Motor (Sept '92) for summing it all up: "Superbly smooth, the engine combines the mid-range civility and high-rev



The 1993 Toyota Camry with Californian burr walnut finish.

vivacity essential to any car attempting to challenge the BMW 525i.

It allows refined motorway cruising but has a more sporting temperament should the driver feel inclined to have fun. And it's hooked up to one of the best four-speed automatic gearboxes in the business.

The Camry V6 is a worthy challenger to the benchmark 525i and good value considering the wealth of standard equipment."

For £22,999† the Camry V6 GX comes with 4 speed automatic transmission, sunroof, alloy wheels, an immobilising car alarm, cruise control, RDS six-speaker stereo radio cassette, leather upholstery, air-conditioning and ABS - all as standard.

For £23,350, the basic BMW 525i doesn't.

For £28,600 the equivalent Mercedes Benz 280E comes only with sunroof and automatic gearbox.

The Camry is also equipped with a 3 year/60,000 mile warranty. (No, neither the BMW nor the Mercedes can say the same.)

All of which allows us to say with justification that, yet again, the car in front is a Toyota.

For more information or to arrange a test drive call us on 0800 777 555.*

THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

THEATRE

LONDON

CHATSKY: Anthony Burgess's translation of the celebrated social comedy by Griboyedov, dating from 1824, usually known as *Woe from Wit*. Colin Firth is the sarcastic hero. Jonathan Kent directs. **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Previews from Thurs, 8pm; opens Mar 16, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm.

CRAZY FOR YOU: Tony award-winning Broadway musical finds a plot to link 19 Gershwin songs, including four only recently rediscovered **Prince Edward**, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

THE GIFT OF THE GORGON: Peter Shaffer's latest: bloodthirsty revenge versus forgiveness on a modern Greek island. Powerful performance by Judi Dench **The Pit**, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Wed, Thurs, 7.15pm, mat Thurs, 2pm. Final performances.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's thrilling Expressionist production of Priestley's soul-searcher. **National (Olivier)**, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Thurs-next Sat, 7.15pm, mat next Sat, 2pm.

THE INVISIBLE MAN: Not as cosy a venue as Stratford East but the show is as jolly as ever. Paul Kiev's magic tricks are amazing **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: Maggie Smith heads a marvellous cast including Alex Jennings and Richard E. Grant. **Aldwych**, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Previews tonight. Mon, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE LAST YANKEE: Subtle and touching Arthur Miller premiere: Zoe Wanamaker, Peter Davison lead a quartet of troubled Americans. **Young Vic**, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

SQUIRREL: Edward Petherbridge and Sara Kestelman in David Mamet's 70-minute comedy concerning a peculiarly severe case of writer's block: 15 years on one paragraph. **King's Head**, 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1916). Previews from Tues, 8.30pm; opens Fri, 8pm; then Tues-Sat, 8.30pm, mats Sat, 5pm and Sun, 3.30pm.

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT: William Gaunt, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Final week.

UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS AND THE TRUE NATURE OF LOVE: Highly praised Traverse production of sensational play by Canadian Brad Fraser sex, selfishness and serial murder. **Hampstead**, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Previews from Thurs, 8pm; opens Mar 15, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

REGIONAL

BRISTOL: Robert Powell and Roy Barraclough in new version of Leslie Bricusse's *Sherlock Holmes — the Musical*. Here for a month and then goes on a 26-venue tour. **Theatre Royal**, King Street (0272 250250). Opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

GLASGOW: Timothy West and Sheila Allen in first venue of a five-week tour of Theatr Clwyd's strong *Death of a Salesman*. **Theatre Royal**, Hope Street (041-332 9000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

LEEDS: *The Plough and the Stars*, O'Casey's finest play, set in 1916, with Amanda Root, Ian Fitzgibbon, Sorcha Cusack, Dillie Keane. **West Yorkshire Playhouse** (Quarry Theatre), Quarry Hill Mount (0532 442111) Previews Thurs, Fri, 7.30pm, opens Mar 13, 8pm; then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Mar 27, 2.30pm and Apr 2, 2pm.



Embrace: actors Radcliffe and Zajac (see Liverpool)

LIVERPOOL: Plain Clothes Productions continues its tour of Phil Smith's "brutal comedy" *Mrs Ceausescu's Organisation of Love*, set in Romania in the 1930s and 1989. With Virginia Radcliffe and Matthew Zajac. **Unity Theatre**, 1 Hope Place (051-709 4988). Fri, 8pm. Further dates in Northwich, Hemel Hempstead, Milton Keynes.

WATFORD: Paula Wilcox and Jeremy Sinden star in *On Approval*, Lonsdale's classic comedy about two unsuitably engaged couples. David Gilmore directs. **Palace**, Clarendon Road (0923 225671). Previews from Fri, 8pm; opens Mar 17, 7.45pm; then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 3pm.

FILM

BAD LIEUTENANT (18): Forceful, uncomfortable study of a depraved New York cop hooked on drugs and alcohol from director Abel Ferrara. Astonishing performance by Harvey Keitel. **Odeon Haymarket** (0426 915353) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772).

A BRIGHTER SUMMER DAY: Edward Yang's masterly epic about restless Taiwanese youth at the turn of the 1960s. Four hours long, but you don't begrudge a minute. **ICA** (071-930 3647).

CONSENTING ADULTS (15): Yuppie wife swapping leads to murder. Limp, silly thriller with Kevin Kline, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Kevin Spacey. Director, Alan J. Pakula. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

DAMAGE (18): MP Jeremy Irons pursues destructive affair with his own son's fiancée (Juliette Binoche). Riveting version of Josephine Hart's novel, coolly directed by Louis Malle. **Chelsea** (071-351 3742/3743) **Curzon West End** (071-439 4805) **Gate** (071-727 4043) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Plaza** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366).

HONEYMOON IN VEGAS (12): Private eye Nicolas Cage tries to save girlfriend from gambler James Caan's clutches. Andrew Bergman's agreeable, old-fashioned screwball comedy. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

LORENZO'S OIL (12): Gruelling real-life tale of parents battling to alleviate their son's terrible illness. With Nick Nolte, Susan Sarandon; director, George Miller. **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

MALCOLM X (15): Spike Lee's ambitious epic. Denzel Washington is solid as the black activist, but prickly issues get sidestepped, and there is little cinematic fire. **Barbican** (071-638 8891) **Camden Plaza** (071-485 2443) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT (PG): Robert Redford's hymn to family, nature and fly fishing. Beautifully mounted, but lacking punch With Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt and Tom Skerritt. **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).



Russian prodigy: assured pianist Evgeny Kissin returns to the Barbican (see Music)

UNDER SIEGE (15): US battleship gets hijacked, but Steven Seagal saves the day. Familiar antics, with juicy villainy from Tommy Lee Jones and Gary Busey. Director, Andrew Davis. **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-630 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeon Marble Arch** (0426-914 501) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

TOYS (PG): Toy factory falls into evil hands. Over-elaborate, unfunny whimsy from director Barry Levinson; with Robin Williams, Michael Gambon, Joan Cusack. **Odeon Leicester Square** (0426 915683).

A WINTER'S TALE (12): A Paris hairdresser's quest for true love. Eric Rohmer near his best: elegant, clear-eyed, realistic. A film laced with magic. Stars Charlotte Véry. **MGM Swiss Centre** (071-439 4470) **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: *Tombeaux*, David Bintley's elegiac and beautiful one-act ballet, is sandwiched between two extremes in the Covent Garden repertoire: The Stravinsky-Fokine *Firebird* represents the birth of 20th-century ballet, while William Forsythe's aggressive and excessive *In the middle, somewhat elevated* represents the art form at the end of the century. **Royal Opera House**, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1066), Wed, 7.30pm.

SPRING LOADED: London's festival of contemporary dance continues with a different offering every night this week. Take your pick from *Virginia Minx at Play* (Mon), Emilyn Claid's first full-length solo show in six years (the erotic subject matter carries a "not suitable for children" tag), to *Grace Not Grace* (Fri), in which the Claire Russ Ensemble takes its inspiration from sources as diverse as the royal family, science-fiction and "cyberpunk". **The Place Theatre**, 17 Duke's Road, London, WC1 (071-387 0031), all performances at 8pm.

ARC DANCE COMPANY: Arc presents Kim Brandstrup's *Antic*, a dance drama based on *Hamlet* and exploring the themes of love, madness and betrayal. This is a one-off London showing for the work prior to the company's season at Sadler's Wells in April. **Richmond Theatre**, The Green, Richmond (081-940 0088), tomorrow, 7.45pm.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

EVGENY KISSIN: The Russian prodigy, who gave an assured and expressive account of Rachmaninov's Second Concerto on his first appearance at the Barbican with the LSO in 1988, aged 17, now makes his long awaited recital debut at the same venue, with a programme of Brahms, Liszt and Schubert. **Barbican**, London, EC2 (071-638 8891), tomorrow, 4pm

ARDITTI QUARTET: This enterprising series of concerts puts Schoenberg's chamber works in context by performing them alongside music by Berg, Webern and Zemlinsky **Purcell Room**, London, SE1 (071-928 8800). Mon, Thurs, 8pm (further concerts, Mar 14, 19).

PAUL CROSSLEY: The artistic director of the London Sinfonietta gives the second of three recitals which together offer a rare opportunity to hear Debussy's complete solo piano works. **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Tues, 7.45pm.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: As part of the "Towards the Millennium" series, Simon Rattle conducts Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, Britten's Four French Songs and Frank Bridge's *Enter Spring*. A strong team of vocal soloists includes Amanda Roocroft (in the Britten), Lillian Watson, Christine Cairns, Mary King, Robert Tear and David Wilson Johnson. **Symphony Hall**, Birmingham (021-212 3333), Wed, 7.30pm. **Festival Hall**, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Fri, 7.30pm.

OPERA

ARIOLDO The recent success of Verdi's *Stiffelio* at Covent Garden should ensure a good audience for this concert performance by Chelsea Opera Group, which offers a fascinating opportunity for comparison: in *Ariodo* Verdi reworks the same libretto, moving the action to 12th-century Scotland, where it was less likely to offend the censors. Sir Edward Downes, architect of *Stiffelio*'s triumph, conducts **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, 7.45pm.

TURANDOT. After its outing to Wembley Arena Andrei Serban's reliable production gets another airing at the Royal Opera House, now with Gwyneth Jones in the title role. **Royal Opera House**, London, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), tonight, Tues, Thurs, next Sat, 7.30pm.

LA DAMNATION DE FAUST. Berlioz's *légende dramatique* arrives at Covent Garden in Harry Kupfer's spectacular staging, first seen in Amsterdam in 1989. The Samuel Ramey features as Mephistophélès. Sir Colin Davis conducts. **Royal Opera House**, London, WC2 (071-240 1066), Mon, 8pm.

ROCK

STING: The assuredly sophisticated singer is promoting a new album of tasteful pop, *Ten Summoner's Tales* **Albert Hall**, London, SW7 (071-589 8212). Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, next Sat, 6.45pm.

THE SHAMEN: Having just released their wackiest single to date, the spaced-out "Re:evolution", the techno beat masters perform some timely gigs featuring multi-media visuals. **Cambridge**, Corn Exchange (0223 357851), Mon, 7pm. **Southend**, Cliffs (0702 351 1135), Tues, 7pm. **Leeds**, Town & Country (0532 800100), Wed, 7pm.

ICE CUBE: The L.A. rapper, filmstar (*Boys N The Hood*) and spokesman for a disaffected generation begins a UK tour supported by Da Lench Mob. **Glasgow**, Barrowlands (041-552 4601), Thurs, 7.30pm. **Bradford**, University (0274 383266), Fri, 8pm. **London**, Brixton Academy (071-326 1022), next Sat, 6.30pm.

PAUL WELLER: The impassioned former lead singer of The Jam and Style Council continues to feel his way as he forges a solo career. **Leeds**, Town & Country (0532 800100), Tues, 7pm. **Nottingham**, Rock City (0602 412544), Wed, 7.30pm. **London**, Town & Country (071-284 0303), Thurs, 7pm.

JAZZ

CHICK COREA: The ubiquitous pianist and composer would be in danger of over-exposure were it not for his gifted musicianship and the variety of his performing formats. This time round he is on his first solo British tour. **Leeds**, Town Hall (0532 455505/476962), tomorrow, 7pm. **London**, Festival Hall (071-928 8800), Mon, 6.45pm. **Cambridge**, Corn Exchange (0223 357851), Tues, 7pm. **Nottingham**, Royal Concert Hall (0602 482525/482626), Wed, 7pm. **Coventry**, University of Warwick Arts Centre (0203 524524), Thurs, 7.30pm.

ANDY HAMILTON: Surprisingly this is the first time that the veteran Birmingham saxophonist has played at the city's premier jazz venue. **Ronnie Scott's**, Birmingham (021-643 4525), Wed to next Sat, 7.30pm.

THE MODERN MUSIQUARIAN: The jazz and improvised music magazine *The Wire* presents a weekend of talks, films, videos and live shows. The performances, which all take place today, include vibesman Orphy Robinson and the Balanescu Quartet (5pm), pianist Jason Rebello and Band (9pm) and D-Note (10.30pm). **ICA**, London, SW1 (071-930 6393), today and tomorrow

NEW VIDEOS

LA FEMME DE L'AVIATEUR (Connoisseur, PG): The film that launched Eric Rohmer's series of "Comedies and Proverbs", a wonderful, bitter-sweet divertissement about a Paris student briefly rescued from an unhappy affair by a chance encounter in a park. With Philippe Marlaud, Marie Riviere. 1980.

NORMAN McLAREN (Connoisseur, PG): Two cassettes reveal the charm and inventiveness of this unique film-maker. *Creative Process*, an excellent two-hour documentary by Don McWilliams, surveys the animator's life and career. *Selected Films* rounds up *Neighbours*, *Pas de Deux*, and other gems made over 40 years

REEFER MADNESS (Vision Video, 15). Notoriously bad 1936 exposé of the horrors of marijuana addiction, whose prime effects seem to be manic laughter and over-acting. Director Louis Gasnier once guided the early films of the dapper silent comic Max Linder.

DIARY OF A CHAMBERMAID (Electric, 15). Buñuel's deceptively quiet and masterful version of Octave Mirbeau's novel; with Jeanne Moreau, cucumber-cool as the provincial maid surrounded by right-wing zealots and grotesque

BOOKINGS

NANCI GRIFFITH: The Texan singer-songwriter returns to the UK in May touting a new album *Other Voices, Other Rooms*. **Birmingham**, Town Hall (021-236 2392), May 10. **Southport** Theatre (0704 540404), May 11. **Norwich**, UEA (0603 505401), May 12. **Cambridge**, Corn Exchange (0223 357851), May 14. **York**, Barbican (0904 656688), May 15. **Reading**, Hexagon (0734 591591), May 17. **London**, Albert Hall (071-589 8212), May 19. 20. **Manchester**, Opera House (061-236 9922), May 23. **Wolverhampton**, Civic (0902 312030), May 24. **Nottingham**, Royal Concert Hall (0602 482626), May 25. **Bristol**, Colston Hall (0272 223682), May 27. **Dublin**, Olympia (010 353 1777744), May 31. **Glasgow**, (041-227 5511), Jun 8-10.

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: The company visits the Royal Opera House for one week to give performances of two new productions: Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras and sung in German with Welsh soprano Anne Evans and Jeffrey Lawton in the title roles; and the first UK production of Donizetti's *La Favorita* in 30 years which will be sung in Italian and conducted by Carlo Rizzi. **Royal Opera House**, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911). *Tristan und Isolde*, April 19, 23, 5pm. *La Favorita*, Apr 21, 24, 7.30pm.

SHEFFIELD CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL: The festival looks at the English tradition of musical composition. Taking part will be the Lindsay String Quartet (whose leader, Peter Cropper is artistic director of the festival), Peter Frankl, and The Nash Ensemble. For the first time the festival will include a children's opera *The Two Lockets*. **Sheffield Chamber Music Festival**, Crucible Theatre, Sheffield (0742 769922), May 8-22.

BEVERLEY EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL: Among the highlights is Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* performed by the Gabrieli Consort and Players in the Minster. **Beverley Early Music Festival**, The Guildhall, Register Square, Beverley, (0492 867430), May 6-9.

EXHIBITIONS

LONDON

THE SIXTIES: Swinging or not, the 1960s London art scene immediately calls up a host of images: psychedelic colours, neo-Art Nouveau, Op Art and Bridget Riley, Pop Art and David Hockney, the extravagant styles of Carnaby Street and the cover art of the Beatles. It is all here, along with some neglected art rediscovered, such as that of Pauline Boty, who died young, and William Green, who disappeared after (though not necessarily because) Ken Russell made a film about him. **Barbican Art Gallery**, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-588 9023). Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Tues, 10am-5.45pm, Sun, midday-6.45pm, from Thurs to Jun 13.

GEORGES ROUAULT — THE EARLY YEARS: For those who associate Rouault mainly with the black-outlined religious and circus pictures of his later years, these early works (1903-1920) will come as a considerable surprise. Brothel scenes, grotesquely satirical images of law courts recalling Daumier, and brilliantly coloured Fauve landscapes were all at one time part of his repertoire. **Royal Academy of Arts**, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, Thurs to Jun 6.



Unexpected work: Georges Rouault's *Fille* dated 1906

ROBERT RYMAN: This retrospective of 75 works from the last 40 years shows the extraordinary variety of feeling and materials the artist has been able to introduce into basic white. **Tate Gallery**, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, until Apr 25.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT GALLERY: A chance to see the only complete interior by the American Frank Lloyd-Wright anywhere in Europe. **Victoria & Albert Museum**, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8441). Mon, midday-5.50pm, Tues-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2.30-5.50pm.

REGIONAL

SOL LEWITT — DRAWINGS 1958-1992: About 350 of the American Minimalist's works on paper show his sensitive response to colour and texture. **Museum of Modern Art**, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0865 722733). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm (Thurs to 9pm), Sun, 2-6pm, until Mar 28.

ROY LICHTENSTEIN: The young man who redefined the strip cartoon as high art, later turned into a grand old man of American painting. His irresistible rise is chronicled here. **Tate Gallery Liverpool**, Albert Dock, Liverpool (051-709 0507). Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm, until Apr 18.

CIVIL WAR: This touring display from the Royal Armouries includes more than 60 prize items. Sponsored by *The Times*. **Cornlum Museum**, Park Street, Cirencester (0285 655611). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Mar 28.

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical Music, Opera:** Ian Brunskill; **Rock, Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne; **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **New Videos:** Geoff Brown; **Bookings:** Heather Alston

EVENINGS OUT

THE VERY REV COLIN SEMPER CANON OF WESTMINSTER



C Clergymen at Westminster Abbey are a little better paid than others but the only way they can go to things which are traditionally very expensive is if friends take pity and treat them. Recently I saw *Turandot* at the Royal Opera House [until March 13], thanks to a friend of mine who is a director of British Gas. It's an extremely lavish production, which I hugely enjoyed; but I felt guilty the following morning when British Gas announced they were to lose some 2,000 jobs. More within my means is a friendly little Turkish restaurant called Marmaris in Pimlico (071-828 5940) where you can get an excellent four-course *meze* at £7.95. A colleague was telling me he had seen Peter Shaffer's new play *The Gift of the Gorgon* [RSC The Pit, Barbican until March 11, and Wyndham's Theatre from March 18]. He explained gnomically: "I didn't take my wife because she doesn't like to see harrowing events translated from the world onto the stage" and that's what made me want to go and see it . . . " ?

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *18*

BRANDADE

(b) In full *brandade de morue*: A Provençal dish made from salt cod, a French adaptation of the Portuguese *brandado*, literally thing that has been moved or shaken: "Nothing is better, says a Provençal proverb, for reviving and remaking a man than living in the clear sunlight, speaking Provençal, eating brandade, and drinking the good red wine of Provence."

SPANDITE

(b) A manganiferous garnet resembling spessartine but containing more iron and calcium, a blend of SPessartite and ANdraDITE: "Spandite, a garnet intermediate in composition between spessartite and andradite, occurs in the Kodurite series of the Srika-kulam district of Andhra. It varies in colour from deep orange to brown orange-red and blood-red and never displays the lighter orange shades of the true spessartite."

LIMBA

(b) The West African tree, *Terminalia superba*, or the hardwood obtained from it, from the Gabon name *limbo*: "Limba is a light, honey-coloured hardwood from Africa. The new limba furniture has all the charm and grace one expects."

PODUNK

(b) A small tribe of Indians formerly inhabiting an area around the Podunk river in Hartford County, Connecticut, the Algonquian place name: "A few years previously in 1631 the chief of one of the Indian tribes in the Connecticut Valley, the Podunks, had journeyed to the Massachusetts and Plymouth

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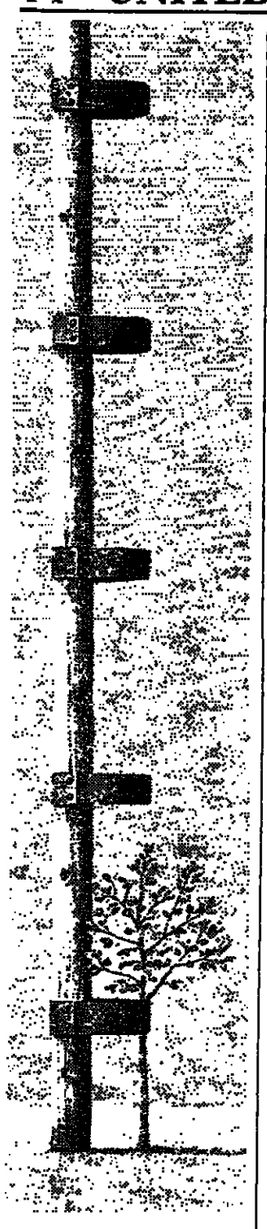
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Media cavalcade besieges tinpot town of God and gu

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WACO

☐ David Koresh's vast cache of arms has suprised few. According to one local firearms dealer, the man holding police at bay could have bought the lot in the space of an hour

THE city of Waco sits on the buckle of America's Bible Belt. Dropped in the middle of the dusty Texas prairie, it is a place of pick-up trucks and drive-ins, Stetsons, poverty, religious devotion and lots of guns. Waco is almost bizarre in its all-American normality, a one-horse town where the horse died.

For the world's press, camped out in the more or less grungy hotels dotted along either side of the freeway and waiting for David Koresh and his Branch Davidian cult to make the next move, Waco has proved something of a culture shock. The local cuisine ranges from hamburgers to cheeseburgers, the federal authorities have booked most of the least unpleasant accommodation and a few veteran journalists are still in a state of moral outrage after discovering that in some parts of the state alcohol is not available. Fresh vegetables appear to be illegal.

In a somewhat desperate, and almost certainly futile, attempt to encourage the hundreds of visiting journalists to look kindly on their host town, well meaning Waco tourist bureau representatives have been offering voluminous literature on the area's more obscure delights: each journalist has also been issued with a sheriff's tin star proclaiming: "Waco — heart of Texas."

With every motel now booked solid, and the threat of expulsion to make way for more federal reinforcements hanging over those lucky enough to secure rooms, the authorities have laid on communal sleeping quarters with beds but no bedding and communal showers. The more fastidious journalists have chosen to commute up to 50 miles a day rather than suffer this indignity.

The earliest foreign journalists to arrive at the scene, who came expecting the siege to last a matter of hours and long ago ran out of clean laundry, are easily identifiable by their matching Hawaiian shirts made out of a sort of refined plastic and bought at Wal-Mart, Waco's nearest equivalent of a clothes shop.

Almost every member of the Fourth Estate, with grim persistence, pronounces their temporary home as "Whacko" and there is a deep and bitter animosity towards David Koresh: not for having barricaded himself into a fortified compound with 108 fanatical supporters, but for having failed to do so in California, or Maine or Palm Beach.

The stand-off with the cult has been frustrating for journalists and federal authorities alike. In fact, the only person plainly enjoying the experience seems to be Mr Koresh. The press has been moved to a point nearly three miles away from where the siege is taking place, nominally for their own protection, in fact to get them out from under the feet of the increasingly fractious federal authorities. The Mount Carmel compound is now, for television viewers and waiting journalists alike, little more than a vague pink splodge in the distance, glimpsed across the shimmering, empty fields.

With a population of little more than 100,000 people, Waco enjoys one of the highest concentrations of different religions anywhere in America, more than 100 at the last count, a fact that suggests religious diversity might ultimately be the product of boredom. Oddly tolerant of different faiths, many of the local people treat the fact that one sect has turned out to be more extreme than the others with little apparent surprise. Surprise is not something your central Texan shows easily.

In the days immediately after last Sunday's bloody gun battle between federal agents and the cult that left at least seven and possibly as many as 20 people dead, the predominant attitude around Waco was "I told you so." Gradually that has turned to criticism of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire Arms which mounted the disastrous assault: if there is one thing that rouses more suspicion in a rural Texan than a small army of journalists it is authority.

The principle of self defence is deeply felt in God-fearing Waco, but so is that of keeping your word. David Koresh's broken promise to surrender if the FBI agreed to convey an hour-long tape to local Christian radio stations last Tuesday, was greeted with almost greater condemnation than Sunday's bloodbath.

The fact that David Koresh has succeeded in assembling an arsenal of assault weapons, included .50 calibre guns capable of bringing down aircraft, has evoked less shock than might be expected. In an area where there is little else to buy, gun collecting is probably the state's single hobby, and Hous Antonio contain dealers than any can city. Accor local firearms Koresh could hav entire cache in th hour — simply l paper stating that had a criminal co

Yesterday, one member disclos Koresh's favou shown "over an over again" to l were the Vietnar *Full Metal Jacke er Hill* and *Platoo* probably equally local residents.

Outside one Wa owners have hun expressing a senti by many: "Shoot esh in the head." the owner, is u ing. "That's enou children out and

Cult leader in Waco frees child but denies suicide call

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WACO

HEATHER Jones, nine, was released from the compound of the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas, yesterday, bringing to 21 the number of children released so far.

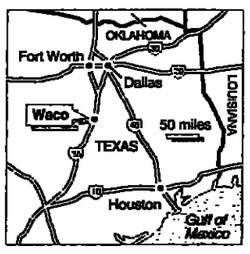
At a joint press conference held by the FBI and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) yesterday, Bob Ricks, an FBI agent, said the children were being kept in a children's home which was described by officials as "a family setting". The FBI said a videotape and photograph of the children would be made and distributed to the cult members to "assure the families that the children are receiving proper care".

The FBI said that David Koresh, the cult leader, had indicated that all the cult members in the compound were free to leave if they wished to do so, but added: "We believe it's totally within his power to tell the others within that compound to walk out."

In negotiations with the authorities, Mr Koresh denied that he was contemplating ordering a mass suicide, and also said that descriptions of him as a messiah were inaccurate. "He describes himself as a prophet more than Jesus," Mr Ricks said.

Almost a week after federal agents stormed the compound and met a withering barrage of gunfire which killed four of them and injured 16, the government agency that planned and carried out the raid is again under attack from those who say the tragedy and ensuing siege could easily have been avoided.

More than 100 heavily armed cult members, including 45 Britons, yesterday remained barricaded into the Mount Carmel compound and, despite continued contact between a federal negotiating team and Mr Koresh, there was no indication of an early end to the siege.



The ATF, which carried out the abortive raid last Sunday, insists that force was necessary to capture Mr Koresh because he had not left the cult's fortified compound for several months, and showed no signs of doing so. Local shopkeepers and restaurant owners, however, have reported seeing Mr Koresh outside the compound on several occasions in the past few months, where he could have been captured and arrested on firearms charges without bloodshed. Under questioning, Dan Hartnett, associate director of the ATF, admitted that Mr Koresh was not under constant surveillance throughout the year-long operation.

"They probably could have taken him peacefully anywhere in the community," said one neighbour who claims to have seen Mr Koresh in a grocery shop last December.

Mr Koresh has announced that he has no intention of leaving the compound until he receives instructions to do so from God. Perhaps in an effort to speed up the arrival of those instructions, federal authorities have appealed for help from biblical scholars to aid them in understanding Mr Koresh's long, and often incomprehensible scriptural allusions.

Intensive debriefing of the released children is now under way, but the authorities are refusing to discuss the details of their investigation to avoid compromising negotiations. Jeff Jamar, the chief FBI official at the site, has said he believes Mr Koresh is aware of the daily news conferences by authorities which are broadcast on local television, and reacts to whatever information is released to the media.

The ATF maintains that Sunday's assault failed because the cult members, equipped with assault weapons, large-calibre guns and even body armour, had been tipped off to the operation 45 minutes before the compound was stormed. According to witnesses, however, federal agents knew that the cult was expecting the attack but chose to carry on anyway.

The FBI admits that Mr Koresh is effectively controlling the situation by virtue of his apparently total control over the minds and actions of his followers. The two elderly women who were released from the compound earlier this week had reportedly left only because they wanted to deliver a tape-recorded message from Mr Koresh to the authorities, which was broadcast on local and national radio and television last Tuesday.

A lawyer for one of the women, both of whom will be material witnesses when the case finally comes to federal trial, said that his client, Catherine Matteson, 75, "would prefer to be back inside". The other woman, Margaret Lawson, 77, simply wanted to keep her friend company, another lawyer said.



Blast suspect: a sketch of Mohammed Salameh appearing before Judge Richard Owen in a New York federal court over the World Trade Centre explosion

How trac the v hire t

FROM JAME IN NEW

HAD HE rea newspaper, Moh lameh would p have tried to recla (£275) deposit o van used to bom Trade Centre in *New York News* on the morning b lameh's arrest o for aiding and bombing that had identified Econoline van tha bomb into the u car park beneat towers, and were the car hire firm. Mr Salameh, 25, born father of fou Ryder car hire Jersey City, New insisted for the th he should get his

He was told he refund of $200 he had yet to pro report proving t had, as he cla stolen. He was arr agents when he t was so stupid," Bello, who serv couldn't imagine on in his head. who blows up Trade Centre mus Mr Salameh, face the death pe alleged offence, not guilty. Polic investigators were have found a quickly.

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Investigators ha part of the axle carrying the bomb fied the vehicle as van. FBI agents c Ryder office in Jers learnt that the va reported stolen. T to try to lure Mr Sa had given the ad mosque and the number of a cousi hire agreement, Ryder office.

Mr Salameh c on Thursday and come and get a pa "He was definitel customer," said M Salameh was hand an FBI man posing employee, and arr waited for a bus ou

Alexander in New Yo

Castro takes care to flatter president

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

IN A rare American television interview, President Castro of Cuba congratulated President Clinton on his election victory and spoke warmly of him as a "man of peace ... a man of ethics".

Dr Castro, going out of his way to flatter Mr Clinton, called him "an intelligent man ... of political talent", and said he would be welcome to visit Cuba "if that would help improve relations between our two countries". He also described Hillary Clinton, the First Lady, as "a beautiful woman", dedicated to social needs.

Asked if he would consider giving up power if America lifted its stringent trade embargo against his country, Dr Castro, 66, said: "I would be willing to give up not only my positions and my responsibilites, but even my life." He added, however, that he was making no promises, merely "thinking aloud".

When pressed, he backed away from the idea of retirement, saying that would depend on Mr Clinton's willingness to respect "the sovereignty, the independence, the revolution and socialism in Cuba".

For his part, Mr Clinton has made clear that he supports a more severe embargo. Interviewed on American television before his January inauguration, he sent a message to Dr Castro saying: "Haven't you learnt that your system is no good? Give the Cubans their freedom."

Dr Castro, however, says he remains a convinced communist "out of honour and conviction", adding: "I am not here because of pleasure. Now I am just a soldier on the frontline and in the most difficult time of the battle. I would be a coward if I just stepped back."

Echoing a recent statement about his desire to leave office within five years because of "failing energy", Dr Castro said: "I do not feel tired but I neither have the energy nor the strength I had when I started this struggle ... five more years with such hard work would be five years of physical and mental erosion". He had other things to do, he said, including writing his memoirs.

White House takes charge in political gambit by Clinton

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

ONE baffling aspect about the arrest of a suspect in connection with the World Trade Centre bombing is the active involvement of President Clinton and the White House in the case.

At stake is a lot more than mere presentation. For once, it underlines the Clinton administration's belief that the case is far too politically sensitive to be left solely to the responsibility of the Washington technocrats.

It began with the White House making the first announcement of the arrest on Thursday lunchtime, thus upstaging the FBI and the Justice Department. The White House's assertiveness was underlined again yesterday when President Clinton declared confidently: "When I know who was behind this and what happened, I will then determine what the appropriate course is for the United States."

The unusual direct involvement also shows some cunning manoeuvring in that it served to cover up Mr Clinton's embarrassment of having to confront one of the biggest law enforcement cases in recent times, just after he suffered a series of embarrassing blunders in trying to fill the post of attorney-general.

Nor has he made any decision yet on whether to dismiss Judge William Sessions, the incumbent FBI director. Had the White House stayed out of this, the glory might have gone to Judge Sessions and Stuart Gerson, the acting attorney-general, who are both Reagan and Bush administration holdovers.

Mr Gerson will soon be forgotten, once Mr Clinton gets Janet Reno, his latest nominee for the post of attorney-general, confirmed by Congress. Judge Sessions theoretically has more than four years left in his ten-year term, but he is dogged by an accusation that he has abused his office for personal gain. Even more damaging are allegations that his wife, Alice Sessions, was using armour-plated cars for shopping trips, ordered FBI agents to pack her suitcases, and that she insisted that the FBI pay $10,000 for a decorative fence around their home.

The effect of all this has been to send a signal to Americans that they are dealing here not with an ordinary criminal investigation, but something which is not only larger in scale but new in kind. The point is important because it underlines the scare which the bombing has aroused. The scary element was not the event itself, the scale of the devastation, or even the number of dead, but a sense of vulnerability in view of the arrival of European and Middle Eastern style guerrilla tactics in America.

'Egyptian ayatollah' linked to bomb suspect vanishes after blast

BY JAMES BONE

THE blind Islamic cleric, known as the "Ayatollah Khomeini of Egypt", who was the spiritual leader of the man arrested in the bombing of the World Trade Centre, has disappeared after the blast.

Investigators believe that Shaikh Omar Adbel-Rahman, 54, leader of a fundamentalist group called al-Gamaa al-Islamia which is campaigning for the creation of an Islamic state in his native Egypt, may have "inspired" the bomb attack.

Mohammed Salameh, 26, the bomb suspect, gave the shaikh's mosque as his address when hiring the van believed to have been used in the attack, and Israeli intelligence sources were quoted as saying that the suspect was the shaikh's assistant.

Shaikh Omar has been living in self-imposed exile in America for the past three years after being tried and acquitted in Egypt a decade ago on the assassination of President Sadat by men who said they were his followers. But American authorities have recently been trying to deport him for entering the country illegally on a tourist visa from Sudan after lying about the fact that he is a polygamist. "He has left Jersey City," his lawyer said when Mr Salameh was arrested. "I do not think that is related to the explosion."

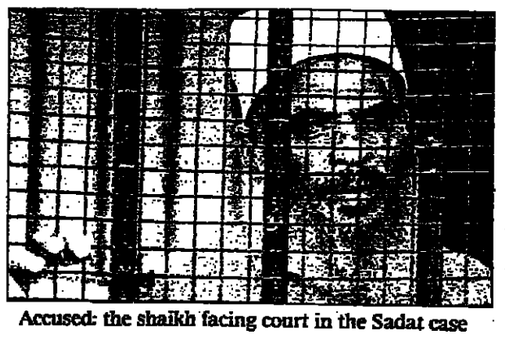
Since moving to America, Shaikh Omar has built up a popular following among immigrants at mosques in Brooklyn, New York and Jersey City, New Jersey. Just as the late Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran used to do when in exile in Paris, Shaikh Omar records his radical sermons on tape and smuggles them back to his followers in Egypt, where they are banned. His lessons calling for the overthrow of the Egyptian government are also frequently broadcast on the Party of God's radio station in Lebanon.

Shaikh Omar lives in a sparsely furnished flat in Jersey City with his third wife, but is still married to two other women who live with his six children in Egypt. He has been blind since his youth because of diabetes.

With a ruling on his deportation still pending, American authorities are said to investigating the shaikh's possible role in three murders on US territory. In none of the murders is he suspected of killing anyone, but FBI has been studying whether he gave his religious sanction to the murders. Among the killings to which Shaikh Omar has been linked is the shooting to death in New York two years ago of the right-wing Israeli extremist, Rabbi Meir Kahane. One of his followers in the United States, an Egyptian immigrant named Sayyid Nosair, was jailed on gun possession and assault charges, but acquitted of murder, in the killing. Shaikh Omar was questioned during the investigation into Kahane's death, and is said to arrange financial support for Nosair's American-born wife. Another killing for which Shaikh Omar is being investigated is the death of Mustafa Mohammed Shalabi, who was found shot and stabbed in his Brooklyn flat in Shalabi has co-sp Shaikh Omar's ar New York but the disagreed with his raise money for Mu Afghanistan beca wanted the funds for efforts in Egypt.

The Egyptian gov has been reluctant t Shaikh Omar's dep from the United Sta ing the return of a religious leader who the unswerving lo some 200,000 of th try's 58 million peop

Police in Egypt Islamic radicals are bomb explosion at cafe on the same da World Trade Cen plosion.



Accused: the shaikh facing court in the Sadat case

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Izetbegovic agreement to Owen-Vance proposals on provinces will isolate Serbs

Muslims set to accept borders of peace plan

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Muslim-led government of Bosnia was last night close to accepting the final part of the peace package proposed by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, a breakthrough that would leave the Bosnian Serbs isolated and exposed to international pressure to sign the accord.

After late-night talks on Thursday, President Izetbegovic of Bosnia appeared to be preparing to accept a map dividing the former Yugoslav republic into ten semi-autonomous provinces, based partly on ethnic lines. His signature would leave the Serbs isolated as the only one of the three warring sides not to have agreed to all three limbs of the Vance-Owen peace plan.

International mediators do not believe Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, will accept the map, the only part of the peace package that he has not signed. But they recognise that it is more acceptable politically to pile pressure on the Serbs to sign an agreement, because of their widely reported involvement in atrocities, than to push the Muslims. The mediators hope that Russia, which has a special envoy at the talks in New York, will try to force Mr Karadzic to accept the map, despite the fact that it rolls back the area of Bosnia under Serb control from its present 70 per cent to little more than 40 per cent and breaks the land corridor across Bosnia linking Serbia to the Krajina Serbs in Croatia.

The United Nations Security Council would, they hope, also apply pressure on the Serbs, probably by adopting the tighter economic sanctions proposed by the European Community.

The proposed sanctions would build on the existing comprehensive trade embargo on the Serb-led rump of Yugoslavia by cutting off postal and telecommunications links and banning all shipment of goods and merchandise over Yugoslav territory.

President Clinton said yesterday that America and its allies were moving to tighten sanctions against Serbia. "We want to find ways to tighten the embargo and we are moving on that even as we speak," he told an impromptu press conference.

President Izetbegovic has come under pressure from Washington to persuade him to accept the Vance-Owen plan, despite his oft-stated complaint that it rewards Serb "*ethnic cleansing*". Lord Owen attributed the new Muslim position to fear of the talks collapsing and the intensification of the war, which he has warned could lead to the partition of Bosnia between the Serbs and the Croats.

"Maybe when people look over the brink and they see a continuing war and they see very little chance of getting the negotiations easily restarted, they face up to the reality," he said. "There is a comprehensive package here on offer and that comprehensive package can bring an end to the war."

The Vance-Owen plan is made up of three parts: the constitutional principles of the future government; the military arrangements for an eventual ceasefire and disengagement of forces; and the map dividing Bosnia into semi-autonomous provinces.

The peace talks have been given an impetus, however, by the preparation of a separate plan on implementation of a final accord. The Muslim side has been reassured by plans to deploy up to 70,000 foreign troops in Bosnia to ensure all sides respect a final agreement once it is signed.

☐ **Moscow:** Russian and American military experts agreed last night that Russian military planes could begin aid airdrops into Bosnia from March 12, using Nato air bases. *(Reuter)*



Izetbegovic: yielded to American pressure

Fears of 77 dead in Skopje air crash

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SKOPJE

AS MANY as 77 people were feared to have died after a Fokker 100 jet of Macedonia's Pal Air crashed just after take-off here yesterday, strewing wreckage along a 100-yard path. The aircraft, on its way to Zurich, crashed just over half a mile from the end of the runway in heavy snow. Visibility was down to about 400 yards at the time, airport officials said.

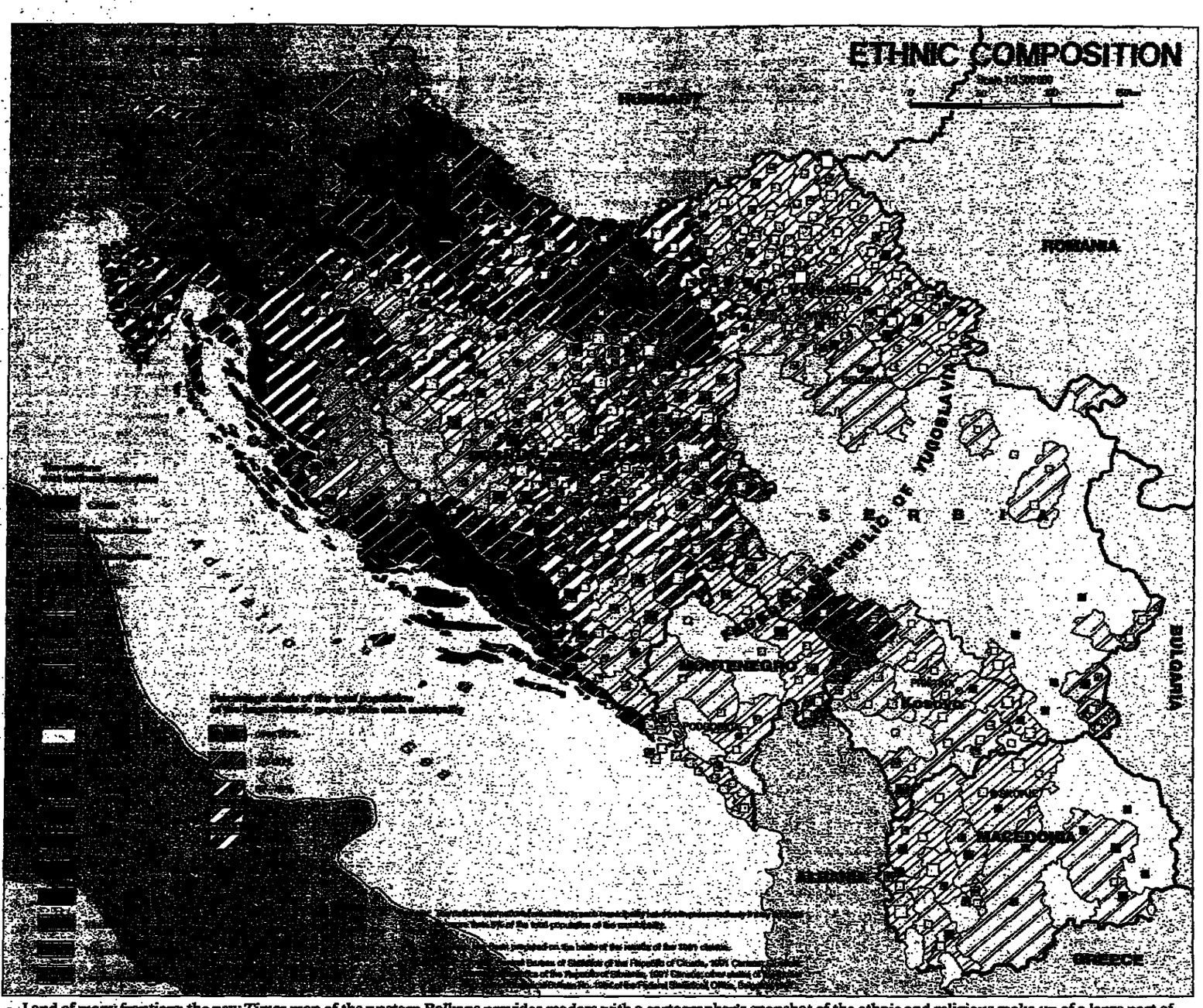
Twenty of the injured were taken by United Nations helicopter to a military hospital, UN officials said. The hospital soon afterwards broadcast an urgent appeal for blood.

The rest of the 91 passengers and six crew were feared dead. UN soldiers, part of a 700-strong Nordic peacekeeping contingent in Macedonia, helped about 20 local medical staff collect bodies from the crash site. They arrived at the scene "on our own initiative without instructions", according to Colonel Jan-Gunnar Isberg of Sweden, their commander.

All that remained of the twin-engined jet was half the cockpit and an engine with a small piece of fuselage attached. Charred wreckage was spread over the bleak, snow-covered field, surrounded by barren low hills, where the plane came down. The destruction suggested the plane exploded on impact with a full tank of fuel.

There was no official word on what caused the crash at 12.05pm local time, according to Blagoje Filipovski, the director of Skopje airport. But Belgrade radio, citing what it said was an initial investigation, said one of the engines apparently failed.

Police sealed off the crash area and the airport was closed until further notice. From a distance of about 150 yards, three bodies could be seen lying about 50 yards from the plane. There were at least 11 body bags laid out on the ground.



Land of many frontiers: the new *Times* map of the western Balkans provides readers with a cartographer's snapshot of the ethnic and religious make-up of a large part of southeastern Europe on the very brink of its catastrophic descent into the maelstrom of violent change, "ethnic cleansing", torture and the mass murder of civilians

The Times map of the western Balkans

Yugoslav chaos captured

BY ROGER BOYES

■ **The emergence of a redesigned Europe is being charted. Eventually, fresh patterns of co-operation, based on geographical reality, will bring the realignments to completion**

POLITICAL cartography is the most bloody of sciences. Wars and a break-up of empire, in 1815, 1918, 1945 and again in 1989-90, have torn up the old European maps and forced the cartographers to think again.

The Times map of the western Balkans, to be published on Monday, presents a remarkably detailed snapshot of the shifting kaleidoscope of southeastern Europe. How long this map portrait will hold is far from certain; many believe that an armed peace will settle in the region only after a general Balkan conference to redraw the frontiers. If the politicians cannot achieve this, then the soldiers on the ground will.

The intriguing element of the past three years, though, is not how much blood has been spilt in the reshaping of the Balkans, but how little has been shed elsewhere.

The unification of the two German states could have been better managed, but it has quickly become an administrative reality. The divorce of the Czech republic from Slovakia was drafted and completed in barely six months. Even the atomisation of the Soviet Union, although it has not been exactly a peaceful process, has stopped well short of a general conflagration.

The new map of Europe thus begs a question: has the violence usually associated with moving frontiers merely been postponed? Will the Romanians, for example, become more active in the support of their kinfolk in neighbouring Moldavia? Will the Hungarian politicians ever really accept that the territory surrendered under the Treaty of Trianon is gone for ever?

Every modern adjustment of the map rekindles memories and creates the potential for new conflict. When the Soviet Union began to splinter in 1990, the world was reminded of how much land was grabbed by Moscow during and after the war. As Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, annexed in 1940, pressed for independence, a younger generation of Europeans realised that much of the western Soviet Union had been acquired by force. In 1940, Romania was forced to cede Bessarabia and part of Bukovina; in 1944, the Finns had to give up part of Karelia.

After the war the Soviet Union added Transcarpathia (taken from Czechoslovakia) and northeast Prussia from Germany, while land taken from the Poles and the Czechoslovaks became part of Ukraine and Belorussia. Russians were settled in the new lands and the Soviet shift westwards entailed "ethnic cleansing" and a huge displacement of people.

It is probably too late to amend that part of the post-war map. Some German nationalists may yearn for the return of eastern Prussia, but it is unlikely that Russia will ever give up that strategically useful corner. The Poles sometimes express longings for the territory lost in the east, but they were compensated by land from the Germans; within the postwar frontiers they have built a secure nation state and are reluctant to upset the apple cart.

None of this quite banishes the nervousness on Central European borders. Nor does it completely reassure the Russian army top brass who remain convinced that the independence of the Baltic states and the western republics of the former Soviet Union has created a security vacuum and poses a real threat to Russia.

New maps also reopen unsettling questions about the broad trends of European history. Was German unification inevitable? Or, put another way, was Germany ever really unified? The map of Bismarck's Germany, born in war, looked coherent enough in a school atlas. But the map disguised a far from unified country. Bavaria, for example, maintained its own postal service long after unification. Does the changing of West Germany's border, to embrace the former East German state, mean that Germany's natural interests lie in the East? This is part of the essential mystery of map-making. Yes, Essen is a German city and so is Rostock: it says so in black and white. But what is the nature of that "Germanness"?

The fact is that Francis Fukuyama's *End of History* has been replaced by the "rebirth of geography". There is no longer much sense in a state like Austria, poised as it is on the cusp of the Balkans, in declaring itself neutral. The essential information about Austria is contained in its train timetables, not in its 1955 commitment to neutral status. Vienna is a mere 45 minutes from Bratislava, three hours' drive from Budapest, a fast train journey from Ljubljana.

German, and Italian, unity emerge not so much from political manoeuvring and warfare as from the railway-building programmes of Friedrich List and the motorways of the 1930s. A similar kind of functional integration awaits Western and Eastern Europe.

Eventually, new patterns of co-operation, based on geographical realities, will begin to emerge.

Claudio Magris, the Trieste scholar, made a persuasive case for geography dictating the terms of political culture in his book *Danubio*. The great river, he argued, connected different ideas of Central Europe, of civil society, of the role of small nations in big events.

His point was that the natural force of a river broke through the modern, artificial barriers, the various forms of iron curtain. Can a similar case be made today, now that the barbed wire is down? Probably not, not yet: the post-communist politicians have yet to catch up with the geography of their new states.

How the ground grew fertile for 'ethnic cleansing'

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE map shows Yugoslavia just before the "ethnic cleansing", the rape and the atrocities began; this is how the lives of people from 18 ethnic groups were woven together in a demographic tapestry only weeks before the federation began to fall apart. Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance have pored over charts showing the same information in their struggle to find a peace settlement for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The map was compiled from data revealed in the last census undertaken by the former federal government in March 1991. The first shots in the Balkan bloodbath were fired in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, in June 1991.

Slavko Goldstein, the managing director of Naklada, the Slovene-owned Croatian compiler of the map, said in Zagreb yesterday: "The ethnic map is the basis for the present Vance-Owen negotiations. It is not the present situation, because 'ethnic cleansing' has changed things, and we couldn't keep up with the war. But it is the basis of how things will be, with some changes as a result of negotiations."

The map was "quite an effort", Mr Goldstein added. "We had 116 communities in Croatia and I don't know how many in Bosnia. The whole enterprise took five months."

Peace may not be imminent, but there are signs that the warring factions in Bosnia and parts of Croatia are beginning to fight themselves to a standstill. The struggle for the former Yugoslav republics is then likely to become an economic one.



Lord Owen: has pored over similar charts

There is also growing evidence of an immense psychological chasm emerging between the republics, aggravated by the widely differing problems besetting them. The gulf separating Ljubljana and Skopje, the Macedonian capital, is so wide it seems a miracle they remained tethered in the same federation for as long as they did.

Slovenia has adopted a slogan that speaks volumes for its aspirations — "A new state on the sunny side of the Alps". The government of Janez Drnovsek, the prime minister, says it wants to join the European Community, but politicians in Ljubljana are believed to be keener to join the European Free Trade Association.

Slovenia has given shelter to 70,000 refugees from Bosnia, but has made clear that it wants to turn its back on the former Yugoslavia and align itself economically and philosophically with Austria, Germany and Italy. At the same time Slovenia's ties with Croatia have been deteriorating in the face of fishing and border squabbles.

Just two hours' drive from Ljubljana, the scent of war still permeates the air of a dismal and sleet-swept Zagreb. After a year of relative peace in Croatia, fighting surged in January.

Devastated Bosnia is two more hours' drive and, further south still, beyond Montenegro and Serbia's troublesome Albanian-dominated province of Kosovo, is Macedonia, which has paid a heavy price for enforcing United Nations sanctions.

☐ The Times Map of the Western Balkans *is published by Times Books at £5.99 and will be available in the shops from Monday. In case of difficulty, write to Times Books, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JB.*

Hunger drives Gorazde's victims to freezing death on food trek

FROM JOEL BRAND IN GORAZDE

AFTER ten months of siege, the Muslim community of Gorazde, certain to be a target of the American airdrop operation, is struggling to survive.

The city's residents have beaten back heavily armed Serbs, but hunger is proving to be a more formidable enemy. Most supplies come from a base camp approximately 40 miles away. Almost every night 500 to 1,000 people risk their lives to get food for their families. Many do not survive the trek, tantamount to a forced march along 20 miles of windy, ice-covered mountain trails at night through Serb-held territory.

Temperatures are well below freezing and a wrong turn, a light or too much noise can draw shelling or machinegun fire. Some of the trails are mined. Three weeks ago, at least 22 people were killed in a single night by a series of mines. To be on the trail at sunrise is considered deadly.

The biggest killer, however, is the cold. People malnourished from ten months of siege are in poor shape to trudge up and down the icy, snow-covered slopes with supplies of food on their back. Many are old people and children whose husbands or fathers are too busy fighting to go for food.

Scores of them have accidentally fallen asleep while resting or simply given up, too weak to continue, and have frozen to death. Locally it is known as "white death". No one knows exactly how many have died on the journey.

At the city's main mosque Ramiz Bezdrob, a 66-year-old former house painter, still had snow in his nostrils as he waited for the *hodza*, or Muslim priest, in the annex. Bezdrob was waiting to be buried. He had walked to the base camp one night to get food for his six-member family, and on the next night, returning with his precious load, he gave up just a few miles from the end of the trail.

The *hodza* says he and his colleague at the main mosque have performed about a thousand funerals since the war began. There are 11 other mosques in the community. So far, according to Hadzo Efendic, the city's mayor, 2,500 people have been killed and 12,000 wounded. Some 80 per cent were civilians. In some areas of Gorazde there are more destroyed homes than habitable ones. During the heaviest shelling, last summer, as many as 2,000 shells fell on the city in one day. The destruction is more widespread than in Sarajevo.

But in recent months the defenders have retaken the city from the rebel Serb forces. During the summer the frontline was 150 yards from the city administration building; now it is ten miles away.

While the military balance has shifted in their favour, the food situation has only deteriorated. Everyone has eaten their prewar stocks and there is a lot of hunger. The most the people of Gorazde can reasonably hope for, unless they are willing and able to brave the mountain trail, is a UN aid convoy. But when it comes, as one did on Wednesday, it brings little relief. Each person receives 1lb of flour, a can of meat, five ounces of sugar and half a pint of cooking oil.

Since the summer, the UN has brought approximately 1,000 tonnes of aid to Gorazde, or ten to 15 days of the city's needs. This is the most any community in eastern Bosnia has received. "If they're waiting to see how long we survive, it is a shame for the civilised world," said Mr Efendic. "It is like an experiment by Hitler."

In an empty television repair shop in the city centre, about 50 old people and children had gathered to collect the day's meagre ration of food. Dzemila Dzambegovic, 60, had just collected three slices of bread for the four people in her family. When a journalist asked about the food she began crying and walked away, too upset to speak.

Next to her, another woman started crying. The intrusion of outsiders, probably the first they have seen since April, was a reminder of how desperate their lives have become. Another came forward with moist, piercing eyes, held out her two slices and stretched the neck of her sweater to reveal a jutting collarbone, testimony to her malnutrition.

Alexander Chancellor in New York



■ Of all the city's criminals, none has ever been as stupid as the man accused of last week's bombing

The headline "Gotcha" hadn't been seen on the front of a tabloid newspaper since the *Sun* celebrated the sinking of the Belgrano in 1982. But it was back on the front page of the *New York Daily News* yesterday morning to mark the arrest of Mohammed Salameh (the *New York Times*, with its rigid insistence on a middle initial, called him "Mohammed A. Salameh"; an NBC newscaster pronounced him "Salami" like the Italian sausage), a 25-year-old immigrant from Jordan who rented the Ford van which is alleged to have exploded beneath the World Trade Centre last week. There is joy in the air. New Yorkers are exultant about the nifty detective work which has led so quickly to the apprehension of a suspect on federal terrorism charges who may, oh bliss!, be the first person in New York to face a realistic chance of execution since 1961.

I don't want to dampen the euphoria, but there are nevertheless a few niggling questions which, if they could only spare the time to talk to me, I would like to put to the investigators of what Mr Salameh's prosecutor described after his arrest as "the single most destructive act of terrorism ever committed on American soil" (a statement, by the way, which is true if applied only to property).

> There are a few niggling questions I would like to put to those who organised the arrest

Question one: since it is usually impossible in this suspicious nation to conduct any business transaction without possession of a credit card or a cheque book and a banker's card or some other evidence of credit worthiness, why did the Ryder truck rental agency in Jersey City decide to let out a van to a young Arab who could speak barely any English and had nothing to offer except $400 in cash?

Question two: since American experts on terrorism say there are cells of Moslem fanatics in various US cities who blackmail co-religionists into giving them large sums of money to finance terrorist acts, why was Mr Salameh, if he is guilty, so doggedly determined to get back the $400 deposit on the van he claimed had been stolen, as well as the $25 he said he had spent on petrol? Could he not have charged the money as expenses?

Question three: since there was apparently nobody willing to reimburse him for the deposit lost when his rented van blew a vast crater in the foundations of the World Trade Centre, why did he tell the judge at his arraignment hearing that he had friends who would put up $5 million as bail?

Question four: since even the richest and most powerful people in the country are unable to obtain work permits for their foreign nannies, drivers and butlers, why was Mr Salameh's religious guru, Shaikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a mad, blind Moslem, who preaches holy war against the United States, who has been investigated in connection with three murders, including the killing in 1990 of the extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, not only given a US tourist visa by the American Embassy in Khartoum three years ago, but subsequently issued with a green card so that he could stay in this country and work here as a preacher? (They are trying to extradite him now for having lied on his visa application form, for polygamy, and for unspecified "crimes of moral turpitude", but this seems to be happening a bit late — especially since one of the official theories is that it may be precisely because the authorities are now out to get him that the World Trade Centre got blown up.

Whether or not he is guilty, Mr Salameh has already achieved high comic status as the ultimate example of the bungling criminal — a man of self-defeating, petty greed, who had not even bothered to remember the licence-plate number of his rented van, who had left traces of explosive on his rental contract, who had given the rental company his correct telephone number, and who had fallen into a blindingly obvious trap laid for him by the FBI.

In the centuries of crime in New York, there perhaps never has been anybody as stupid as Salameh," the columnist Jimmy Breslin wrote yesterday in *New York Newsday*. Neil Livingstone, an expert from the Institute of Terrorism, stated more soberly that Mr Salameh was not, in any event, "one of the bright lights of international terrorism".

All this makes it very difficult to believe that Mr Salameh could at the same time be a master bomber who impressed all the experts by choosing exactly the right place to park his van so as to cause maximum damage and disruption to the colossal Trade Centre complex. Clearly, the FBI has much work left to do.

In the meantime, New Yorkers appear to be almost unanimous in wishing Mr Salameh a grisly fate. One woman working at the Empire State Building, which was the target of a bomb threat earlier this week, was asked yesterday what should be done to him and replied: "I think they should blow him up."

The author edits the The New Yorker's *"Talk of the Town"*.

A massive new history of Wales explores the origins of a modern nation, writes Jan Morris

We are more than just a rugby team

Never before have the Welsh, whether they habitually speak Welsh or English, been so united in the conviction that theirs is not just a province, or even a rugby team, but a genuine separate nation. There is nothing new to the idea. From Milton ("an old and Naughty Nation proud in arms") to Lloyd George ("one of the little five-foot five nations") artists and politicians have periodically honoured Welsh nationhood, and Welsh patriots have clung to the conception through thick and thin.

Thin, however, it has more often been, and frequently plastered over by romantic interpretations of history. In ancient times Wales was a congeries of frequently hostile princedoms; in modern times it has as often as not been split between north and south, between Tories, Liberals, Labour and Plaid Cymru, and at least between the Cymry Cymraeg, those who speak the Welsh language, and those who have lost or never learnt it.

This week John Davies's *History of Wales*, was published in English (Allen Lane, £30). His book, which has been a remarkable critical and financial success in its Welsh version, offers an allegorical full stop to these dissensions. It is scrupulously impartial in its attitudes, so that holding its 700-page substance is like having all Wales in one's hand; and it appears at a time when the political frustrations of articulate Welsh people today are increasingly concerned with the fact that they do not govern themselves — that they do not enjoy the rights of nationhood.

English people often express their support for Welsh devolution with the coda "I believe every region should have devolution — I'm a great Wessex devolutionist myself." Grrr! is my response. We are not talking regions here. We are talking nations. Dr Davies's book will have done marvels if it simply gets into English heads that Wales is not part of England at all, it is a different political and social entity, worthy to be commemorated not just in *belles lettres* or coffee-table books, but in a historical work of epic scale and quality.

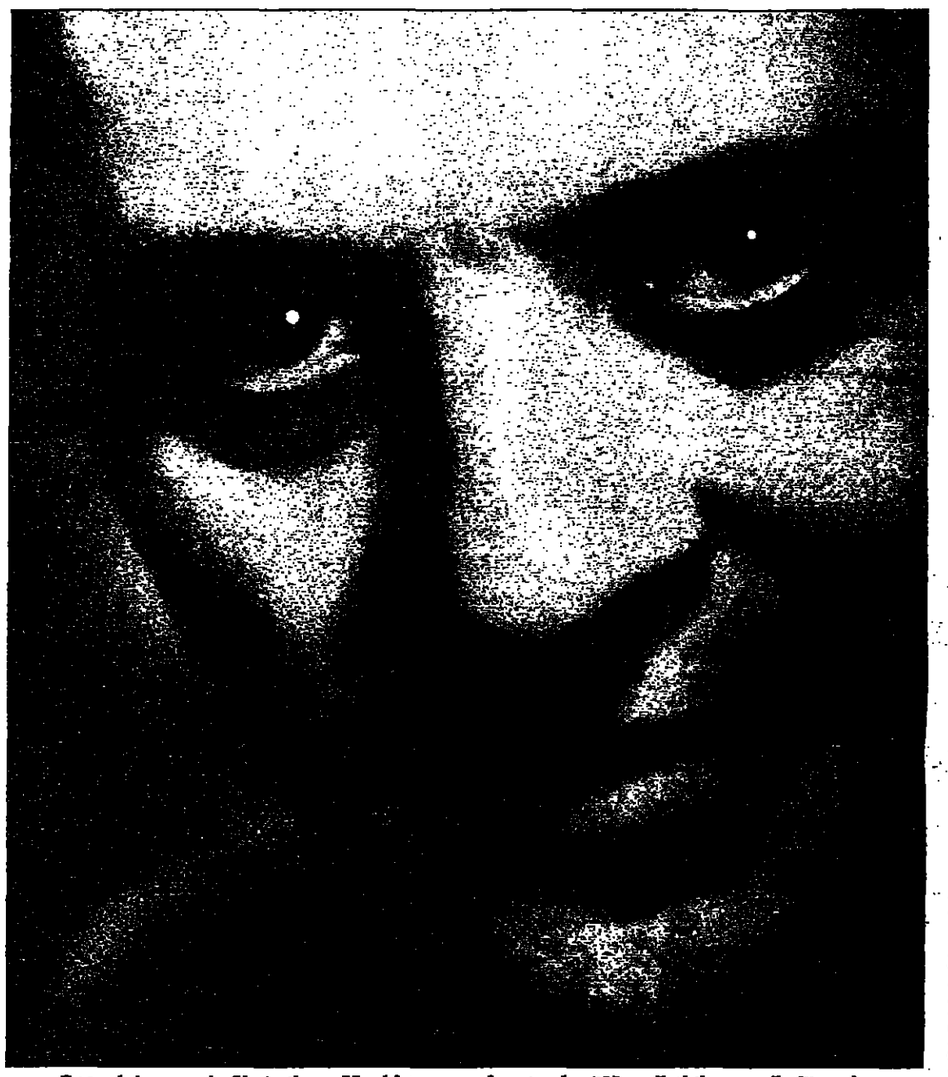
Yet this nation is a non-nation. It is not even really a democracy, let alone a sovereign state. The Tories can legitimately claim to be the governing party of England, but of the 38 MPs who represent Welsh constituencies at Westminster, only six are Conservative. The secretary of state for Wales is an Englishman elected by an English constituency. The Welsh select committee has a majority of Conservative members, including the members for Somerton and Frome and for Worcester (how do they have the gall?). The innumerable quangos which run so much of Welsh public life are notoriously packed with English Tories, and I have long lost count of the times when planning decisions of our local councils in North Wales have been overruled by the Welsh Office, usually in the interests of Thatcherite development.

Do you detect a note of rising anger? You do, and I am certainly not alone in feeling that Welsh nationhood now demands not just formal recognition, but practical implementation too. It is 14 years since the devolution referendum, and times have changed. In Europe we see political and ethnic minorities from Thuringia to Galicia to the Swiss cantons running their own affairs; yet here in Wales we are governed absolutely by a political party we overwhelmingly reject from a capital aloof to our concerns.

This is not a matter of party politics — as in Scotland, people of all persuasions share these perfectly obvious, indeed elementary grievances. It is a historical process which has been gathering momentum fitfully for generations, sometimes flowing, sometimes ebbing, and now I believe, with the advent of a new kind of Europe, approaching fulfilment. So perhaps Dr Davies's history is not only a book, not only a symbol either, but a symptom: a salutary symptom for English readers, an encouraging one for the people of Wales — for its author believes that in this decade it is "more stimulating to be a member of the Welsh nation than it has ever been before". *Saeson* please note. Can they claim the same?

Hollywood's lethal weapon

Decent people are repelled by the extreme violence of so many new films



Enough is enough: Sir Anthony Hopkins may refuse to play "Hannibal the cannibal" again

Well, well. Sir Anthony Hopkins may refuse to make a sequel to *The Silence of the Lambs* in view of the rising tide of violence. He is reported as worrying that "there are such terrifying films coming out that I think it may be time to say 'enough is enough'... I don't want to encourage that through my films. As an actor I do have to have some responsibility." His fee for a repeat performance as Hannibal the cannibal is believed to be over £1 million.

I have great respect for Sir Anthony. His *Howards End* was splendid. His impersonation of Rupert Murdoch was rollicking. But there are times when the naivety of artists is frightening. Sir Anthony has just discovered that some Cardiff children had actually seen his appalling film, and he himself was appalled. What world does he inhabit? I take it he is unconcerned at the impact the film might have had on adults. But if it is true that some successful actors are beginning to accept that film content can adversely influence audiences, then times are really on the turn.

The argument over the influence of violent or sexually explicit entertainment on spectators is as old as Roman circuses. What is naive, some would say dangerously so, about filmmakers is their double standard. They claim great cultural influence in Daniel Boorstin's words "the power to be mistaken for reality... to make us walk more confidently on the precarious ground of the imagination." Jean-Luc Godard intoned, "Cinema is truth 24 times a second." Konstantinos Costa-Gavras's works were lauded as influential revolutionary statements, as was the outrageously fabricated *JFK* (charging the Warren Commission with outrageous fabrication!). Nor is such boasted influence confined to politics. Woody Allen once said of his intentions, "If I have made one more person feel miserable, I'll feel I've done my job."

The claim that the cinema can be used to induce specific responses in audiences is shared by the attendant courtiers to this art form: advertisers who believe a film can change spending habits; charities who use documentaries to raise huge sums of money; manufacturers who find it worth having stars endorse their products and pay large sums for subliminal promotion of products on film sets; governments that subsidise films to boost national esteem.

If the moving image is seen as influential in these respects why not in its portrayal of sexual cruelty and physical violence? It is palpably absurd to maintain that people, young and old, are inspired to action by some images but not by others, least of all images so exaggerated and so disturbing as depicting explicit sex and violence. This is not a matter of anecdote or mere common sense. America is now awash in studies showing either a clear causal link between those exposed to screen violence and subsequent violent behaviour or at least a worrying correlation between the two.

If a criminal says that seeing *Taxi Driver* made him want to go out and murder somebody, responsible citizens are bound to wonder if such films should be permitted distribution. We prosecute those who incite to euthanasia. Are films not also potent weapons of incitement? Can anybody seriously claim that *Death Wish, Lethal Weapon, Cape Fear, Basic Instinct, Fatal Attraction* plus a dozen other portrayals of sadism, rape, mayhem, serial murder are mere harmless entertainment?

Simon Jenkins

In his book, *Hollywood v America*, the critic Michael Medved has set Los Angeles on edge by showing that cinema-goers, so long used as scapegoats for the industry's fixation with sex and violence, are beginning to desert the industry. While existing customers may reward ever more gruesome films with their favour, potential new customers are not interested. A horrible film may increase market share but helps shrink market size. Decent people do not want to see lumps bitten out of women's cheeks, corpses splattered over ceilings, genitalia lascerated with razors.

Michael Douglas discourses (in the *Daily Mail*) on his new ultra-violent film, *Falling Down*, rejected by most studios as too socially irresponsible — I like that word "too". He says, "It is an original voice that really speaks for the moment... people struggling to deal with their lives while trying to make sense of a very illogical world." It apparently shows Mr Douglas spraying with machine guns just about anybody he encounters out and about in Los Angeles, especially Koreans. He would doubtless go along with Martin Scorsese who suggests that "maybe we need the catharsis of blood-letting and decapitation".

If a politician said this, or a judge, or a policeman, they would be treated as lunatic. What licence entitles an "artist" to such rubbish? Mr Medved cannot avoid the conclusion that such films do encourage in young and old the view that "physical intimidation is irresistibly sexy and that violence offers an effective solution for all human problems". Long gone are the days when at least some concept of rightness triumphed. Even the comedy, *The Player*, portrays its hero as winning by committing murder.

There are those who believe the film business may be sliding away from cinemas and towards the twilight world of pornographic videos and cable television channels. This would surely be awful. But there must be some way of freeing more serious film-makers from the pressure to compete on the same terms. Otherwise restrained directors seem unable to get an actress on a set without asking her to undress and simulate copulation, a blight afflicting even such engaging comedies as *Hear My Song*. But then what other profession is a voyeur's charter?

The bloody descent of the film business into heavy violence must make the case against censorship harder to sustain. The dissemination of writing considered harmful to children is controlled by law, as is material that might incite violence or racial hatred. If written material, why not film? The pre-war *Birth of a Nation* was widely, and plausibly, credited with leading to the revival of the Ku-Klux-Klan. A number of American films clearly do more than "reflect" racist attitudes: Mr Douglas's massacre of Korean shopkeepers apparently has his audiences cheering to the echo.

To Mr Medved and others, the return of formal censorship against violence and blasphemy is at least on the cards, with public opinion strongly in favour. The implication in a community already obsessed with political rectitude is awesome. Yet Mr Medved mildly points out that the age of censorship in Hollywood was also that of its greatest artistry: yielding *Gone with the Wind, Stagecoach, Of Mice and Men, Drums along the Mohawk, Wuthering Heights*.

Censorship is external regulation and therefore professional anathema. Yet such sanction is the community's natural response to what it feels might threaten its stability, be it adulterated food, dangerous drugs, guns or films that incite social evils. Film-makers, like all artists, claim a licence from such sanction. They are observers sitting on the outside of society looking in. But that licence is held on lease. It is not freehold. It can be withdrawn.

The best censorship in a free society is self-censorship. The best hope for the cinema is if leading practitioners such as Sir Anthony Hopkins do indeed say enough is enough. But how often have we heard that before? Who would bet on there being no *Silence of the Lambs II*?

Knight errands

JOHN Major's limited reform of the honours system may have been a relief for undubbed Tory back-benchers, but it is causing long faces in Whitehall's corridors.

Coming so soon after the government decided that civil servants could be blamed for blunders like the pit closure fiasco, the loss of the automatic knighthood for time-serving mandarins is a serious blow.

The 16 permanent secretaries (out of a total of 36) who already have knighthoods must be feeling pleased with themselves. Officials responsible for introducing some of the government's more sensitive measures must be feeling nervous.

Richard Wilson, permanent secretary at environment, should be relatively pleased with how the council tax is going so far. But he will be doing very well indeed to match his predecessor Sir Terence Heiser who, it is said, got a knighthood for introducing the poll tax and the GCB for removing it.

Nerves are also jangling at the Department of Trade and Industry, which is responsible for pit closures. Ministers have already moved Robert Priddle, the senior civil servant most closely identified with the policy. But any future honours will depend on the the 20-strong coal review team led by Peter Loughed, two rungs below the top of the ladder, getting Michael Heseltine out of the hole he has dug for himself.

Many observers have been puzzled that Patrick Brown, nicknamed Mr Privatisation by city brokers and now permanent secretary at transport, has not already been knighted after spearheading the sales of freight, ports, buses and water. It is an impressive track-record — but the challenge of selling off British Rail may yet prove his untitling.



DIARY

Sassenach

THE late Nicholas Ridley's elevation to the House of Lords was marked with predictable controversy. Never noted for his diplomacy, Ridley upset the Scots by his choice of title, Baron Ridley of Liddesdale.

Residents living on the Scottish side of where the Liddle Water ran down to the border were deeply affronted by an English peer taking their name. Ridley, the Northumbrian, was unperturbed. "There is also an English side to it you know," he said.

● *Ridley always maintained a healthy attitude to the* Spectator *interview that so contributed to his political downfall. Three weeks ago, when the Diary last spoke to him, he was in boisterous mood. "Bloody* Spectator, *comparing me to Hitler. That's not what I said at all. I have never been anti-German. I am just anti the Germans running our economy. What I was trying to say was that by going into the ERM we put ourselves in a position where Germany dominated the rest of Europe through the financial system. I think now people agree with me."*

A good press

MORRIS McKenzie, the Church of Scotland minister at the centre of allegations of ritualistic child abuse on Orkney, wrote to the Calcutt committee investigation into press intrusion. But not to complain. To praise.

The Rev McKenzie, who is retiring after 15 years on South Ronaldsay, believes the Orkney affair is a good example of why the press need the freedom to investigate. He says his own treatment by the press was sensitive and even-handed, especially after his health became badly affected.

He is dismayed that he did not receive a reply to his letter from Calcutt and has asked his local MP Jim Wallace to investigate. "Perhaps it was not the kind of letter Calcutt wanted to receive," he says.

A heritage department spokesman says that the Calcutt secretariat has no record of having received McKenzie's letter. "Perhaps it was submitted after the submissions deadline. The only letter we received from a McKenzie was from Kelvin MacKenzie, editor of *The Sun*."

● THE Jewish Chronicle *is at it again. This weekend is* purim, *the Jewish equivalent of April fool's day, and the newspaper has published a back-page story which reports that a "complex diplomatic initiative involving Israeli President Chaim Herzog and US President Bill Clinton this week raised the possibility that an* eruv [a Jewish religious enclosure] *could be set up in an area of one square mile, centred on Downing Street".*

Little list

RICHARD Suart, in superb form in Jonathan Miller's newly revived production of *The Mikado*, included certain newspapers "that deign to print apologies" in Ko-Ko's list of candidates suitable for execution. Suart, however, runs the risk of becoming the first person to sing an apology if he continues in the wicked vein that brought the house down at the ENO this week.

Without giving too much away, the current production is unlikely to be enjoyed by the heir to the throne, two of Chelsea football club's best known supporters, or what used to be the world's favourite airline. Paul Gascoigne may also feel it's not worth the trip back from Rome. Was the song looked at by a lawyers? "Well no," says a spokeswomen. "But the list is checked by the revival's director, David Ritch. The intention is to send up."

● *James Joyce may not have approved, but his epic work* Ulysses, *has been translated into Irish, 72 years after it was first published in English. James Henry, a former RAF doctor from Belfast, started the mammoth task in 1982 as a retirement hobby. Henry says it all started by accident: "I challenged my friend, Basil Wilson, to translate the beginning of Chapter 3, which starts 'The ineluctable mortality of the visible...' and it went on from there."*

Happy families



In Nepal: Baroness Chalker and the Princess of Wales

JUST as well Baroness Chalker was on escort duty with Princess Diana in Kathmandu and not at the Conservative Central Council meeting in Harrogate. One of the ringleaders of the protest yesterday about the way the Conservative party is run is Eric Chalker, her former husband. "We are still great friends," he says. Don't tell the party chairman.

RUSSIA'S HOUR OF PERIL

Mr Clinton's overture bridges a dangerous policy void

Confronted by the immovable object of an ever more obstructive legislature, authority ebbs away from Russia's once irresistible force, Boris Yeltsin. The population is sick of the paralysis at the top created by months of political infighting between the government and Russia's unpopular parliament. As Russia's economic, social and political fabric frays, the world has reason to shudder. Bill Clinton's determination to engage the West more actively in the "revitalisation of Russia", both through his well-timed summit with Mr Yeltsin in Vancouver early next month and by offering concrete financial aid, must find its echo in Europe and Japan.

This week's demand by Russia's military commanders that Mr Yeltsin take "decisive action" to end the deadlock over the division of powers intensified the flavour of a High Noon shoot-out, which Mr Yeltsin himself has sought to impart to next Wednesday's emergency session of the Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's supreme law-making body. The truth is more sober. Neither the military, nor the parliament nor Mr Yeltsin himself is certain how to end the deadlock: by taking the battle directly to the public through a referendum, or by trying for yet another backroom deal.

The Congress has the power to destroy Mr Yeltsin; or to settle the struggle in one of two ways. It could give the go-ahead to a referendum on constitutional reform on April 11: or it could ratify a constitutional truce which would enable the government to govern again. For that, Mr Yeltsin needs to outflank the hardliners led by Ruslan Khasbulatov, the Speaker of both the Russian parliament and the Congress, and do a deal before next week with the relatively moderate conservatives grouped in the Civic Union coalition.

Should the Congress block both escape routes, Mr Yeltsin has hinted — as he did before the last Congress in December — at taking emergency powers "to save Russia, to save democracy and reform". In the next breath, however, he talks about the urgent need for conciliation with his opponents, arguing that not even the most rockribbed hardliners in Congress will risk Russia's disintegration "into 50 or 60 separate principalities" which could fight "for centuries to come". As for the military, far from indicating support for rule by presidential decree, their advice could be construed as an ultimatum to reach a rapid compromise.

Russia needs a new constitution, not least as a basis for fresh elections for parliament, which has never possessed full democratic legitimacy. The existing constitution, though amended, was framed in 1936 and still confers "all power to the Soviets". But a referendum would not be risk-free for Mr Yeltsin and the reformers in his government. Political uncertainty and economic hardship have sapped popular confidence in the entire political process. One Russian in three expects a dictatorship within a year: a worryingly high proportion would actually welcome one. Nor would a win for Mr Yeltsin end the political deadlock in Moscow: that would wait on the framing of a new constitution and fresh parliamentary and presidential elections, a process that could take a year or more.

Stalemate in Moscow has accentuated centrifugal tendencies throughout the Russian federation. Some devolution is healthy. Legal and administrative anarchy is not. Mr Yeltsin is not exaggerating when he warns that without firm government and radical reforms, Russia will fall apart — before or after reverting to despotism.

The yearning for firm leadership is palpable. But if Mr Yeltsin tried to end this farce by a Kremlin coup, there is no guarantee that the armed forces — whose refusal so far to become involved in politics is in any case an asset not to be squandered — would back him. Before hyper-inflation buries such reforms as have been put in train, he needs a deal enabling his government to wrest control of the central bank from the parliament and implement its main reforms. But to outflank Mr Khasbulatov, he needs some fresh cards to put on the table.

The West cannot fight Mr Yeltsin's battles for him, but it can do more than it has done to help the forces of reform. Generous debt relief, assistance — actively under consideration by the White House — for Russia's social security safety net, investment in Russia's oil industry and a firm pledge of further funds as soon as the central bank reins in the money supply may all need to be treated as a precondition for stable and effective government, rather than a reward. Mr Clinton is right to lower the hurdles for such aid in order to shift the balance of power the reformers' way. The likely alternative, aggressive nationalism rising out of economic and political anarchy, would pose huge strategic risks. The West has a vital interest in Mr Yeltsin's continued will to fight for Russia's political and economic transformation. It must invest in his courage.

PLACE FOR LEARNING

Let schools be the base for training teachers

Educationalists' reaction to the proposal this week for a new route into teaching has been predictably hostile. It seems there is almost nothing John Patten, the education secretary, can suggest which will meet with a positive response. He is forever accused of hiding his agenda. In this case, he is suspected of introducing teacher-training on the cheap, forcing over-burdened schools to take up a task for which they are not suited.

He deserves better. This £1 million scheme for 250 graduates is a well judged experiment which could point the way to future developments in teacher training. School-based courses for graduates going into secondary schools already exist, but are controlled by colleges and university education departments. Mr Patten wants to see if it is feasible to pass control to the schools.

Under this new scheme, groups of schools will be able to train their own teachers, if they so choose and if they can convince the authorities of their competence. Everything from the design of courses to the recruiting and payment of trainees will be in the hands of their future employers. Expertise can be introduced as needed from higher education institutions.

As long as the necessary resources are available, there should be no shortage of secondary schools willing to take on the challenge. Head teachers have been as exasperated as the politicians with the attitudes they have encountered in some of the teacher training colleges. Their image as Marxist-dominated havens of failed teaching methods may be sometimes exaggerated: but there is little doubt that the colleges have encouraged some of the discredited classroom practices that ministers are trying to sweep away. Students' own accounts of courses divorced from the reality of school life encourage the belief that some current training contributes more to the problems of the education service than to their solution.

Mr Patten's scheme, limited though it is, will introduce more choice into the system, both for schools and graduates. It does not pretend to answer the much bigger question, due to be addressed next month, of how to reform primary school training in general.

Here Mr Patten would do well to be more cautious. The school-based model that suits a one year course for graduates will be hard to adapt to the longer, more diverse training undertaken by most primary teachers. Primary schools are often small and tightly staffed, with little opportunity to take on training responsibilities for which they may not be qualified. Trainees come straight from school. As well as learning to teach, they need to master a 10-subject curriculum.

Whoever is in charge, innovation is needed if teachers are to have the right training for an increasingly demanding job. Neither the colleges nor the schools should be afraid to see if their partnership could be more soundly based.

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

Newton's thoughts in an orchard are still changing the world

The apple figures insistently in human history. As if to expiate its role in the Fall of Man, an apple falling from a tree in a Lincolnshire garden in 1665 set off a train of thought which inspired a revolution in the human mind. That apple had as its audience a man whom many consider the greatest intellect who ever lived, Sir Isaac Newton.

Today, to mark the 350th anniversary of Sir Isaac's birth, five trees will be planted in the same garden, grown from cuttings from the original from which the apple fell. Tree plantings are often rather awkward events, inexpertly performed by dignitaries reluctant to get down on their knees and do the job properly. But today's event is more than that, for it will mark an extraordinary continuity both in nature and thought.

Like many semi-legendary episodes in British history, the fall of Newton's apple may provoke a raised eyebrow or two. The story is almost too tidy to be true. Yet if we are to take the great man at his word, it really happened. Sheltering from the plague which had emptied Cambridge, Newton spent some time at home at Woolsthorpe Manor, near Grantham. Here, he told at least five people, he observed an apple fall and wondered if the same force that pulled it to the ground also held the moon in its grip. The idea was bold, for the ancients had believed that earthly and heavenly things obeyed different rules, each in their station. To surmise that all of nature, from the kitchen garden to the cosmos, was subject to a single law of gravitation was to assert that all could in theory be understood and captured in the language of mathematics.

More than three centuries later, this ambition remains unchanged. Physicists who talk today of a theory of everything, uniting gravitation and quantum theory, are pursuing the hare set running by Newton. Among them is Professor Stephen Hawking, Newton's successor in the Lucasian chair of mathematics at Cambridge, whose representative will wield the spade alongside the President of the Royal Society today.

Much has changed, but the scholarly tradition — and, amazingly, the tree — survive. It is tempting to see the tree as the spirit of British science: old, gnarled, not entirely certain of its future, seldom acknowledged except by foreigners but vigorous enough to throw off fresh shoots from time to time. Seldom has the endless cycle of English life been so neatly turned: the tree begat science, and now science begets the tree.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Maastricht: why the people need to cast their votes

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, In his speech to Charter 88 (report, March 2) John Smith committed Labour to a raft of constitutional reforms aimed at extending the rights of the individual. On the crucial constitutional question of the day, however — the overwhelming public desire for a referendum on the Maastricht treaty — he offered no help: a strange omission for a party leader dedicated to the expansion of democracy.

That the party in government opposes referring its policies to the people is perfectly understandable. What is almost impossible to comprehend is why the official Opposition is prepared to connive at this denial of popular rights.

Why is it the Labour party which remains so adamantly opposed to allowing British voters the same rights as their Danish, French and Irish counterparts? Since, moreover, it was Labour which, in 1975, referred entry into the Community to the people, and in 1979 did the same with devolution, the party's current stance signifies a step backwards in its commitment to constitutional reform.

I write as someone who would probably vote "yes" in a referendum. But it is becoming increasingly difficult to believe that the Maastricht treaty can be legitimised by the parliamentary shambles currently in progress — worse, the arm-twisting and procedural tricks being employed to secure passage of the bill are discrediting not only Maastricht but Parliament itself.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BOGDANOR,
Brasenose College, Oxford.
March 2.

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, There is much in your leading article of March 3, "Towards the new Europe", urging the government to pursue a more proactive line in Europe, that supporters of European union can agree with, in particular the need to replace the "messy ambiguities" of the Maastrich treaty with a proper constitution which will define what is to be decided centrally, what nationally — and what locally.

You are right also to point out that Europe *à la carte* is now a reality. But if the European Community is to have any validity the *plat du jour* must be substantial and must be consumed by all; it must comprise acceptance not just of the Single European Act but of all of the rules of the Community and the authority of the institutions — the Commission, the Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors — which enforce those rules.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MEYER
(Policy Director), European Movement — United Kingdom,
Europe House,
158 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
March 3.

From Sir Philip Goodhart

Sir, In his letter of March 2, attempting to set aside the powerful argument for a referendum on Maastricht contained in your leading article, "A sound tradition" (February 25), my friend Alistair Cooke of the Conservative Political Centre argues that the interest of Balfour, Baldwin and Churchill in the use of the referendum was purely tactical.

This is not quite accurate. On May 8, 1911, as your leading article noted, Balfour moved an amendment to the Liberal government's Parliament Bill which would have meant that any bill which affected the powers or composition of either House of Parliament would require validation by a referendum. This amendment also covered such issues as changes in voting qualifications and the possible establishment of national assemblies in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

As Balfour said when moving that amendment: "In the referendum lies our one hope of getting the sort of constitutional security which every other country but our own enjoys." That statement of principle could hardly be clearer.

These historical precedents are important; but the main argument in favour of a referendum now rests on the fact that all three of the main political parties broadly supported ratification of the Maastricht treaty at the last general election. Voters have therefore never had an opportunity of expressing their approval or disapproval of an issue of fundamental constitutional importance.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GOODHART,
The Carlton Club,
69 St James's Street, SW1.
March 2.

From Mr John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip-Northwood (Conservative)

Sir, In his letter of February 23 the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, stated "that those who claim to be the stoutest defenders of parliamentary democracy are the first to seek to circumvent it by referendum". He went on to assert that John Major's attachment to parliamentary democracy, like Burke's, is so strong that even if a referendum were guaranteed to produce an overwhelming "yes" he would not resort to one.

These specious arguments by a notable alumnus of the whips' office were partly refuted in your editorial of February 25, "A sound tradition", in which you rightly argued that "the Conservatives need have no fear of a Maastricht referendum".

Mr Garel-Jones also conveniently ignored the fact that the House of Commons will indeed be bound by the outcome of a referendum — only it will be the result of the *Danish* referendum on the proposed Treaty on European Union on May 18.

In order to secure the passage of the paving motion on the European Communities Amendment Bill, the government conceded that it will be the outcome of the second Danish referendum on the Maastricht treaty and the derogations from it uniquely secured for Denmark at the Edinburgh summit which will direct our Parliament, since the third reading of the bill in the House of Commons will only take place after the Danish referendum.

Am I undemocratic in believing that on an issue of such overriding constitutional importance it should be the votes of the British people, expressed in a referendum here in Britain, which should guide our Parliament and decide our nation's destiny, not those of our friends the Danes?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKINSON,
House of Commons.
March 3.

From Viscount Hampden

Sir, Thursday, June 24, 1993, marks the 350th anniversary of the death from wounds suffered at the skirmish at Chalgrove Field of John Hampden, possibly the greatest of the defenders of parliamentary rule in this country.

What better way could there be of reaffirming all he fought for than by having the referendum you have so cogently argued for on that day?

Whatever the result, the honour of Parliament, the body politic and members thereof would be restored in public esteem.

Yours faithfully,
HAMPDEN,
Glynde Place, Glynde,
Lewes, East Sussex.
February 27.

Welsh pointer to Scots shake-up

From Dr Iain B. H. Wilson

Sir, Should we rejoice at Carmarthenshire reinstated or Meirionydd *extinguished* (report, March 2; leading article, March 3)?

Perhaps the reappearance of the "familiar and romantic names" will aid English tourists as they speed past signs at county boundaries, but I must deprecate the inference (I may be jumping to it, of course) that local government areas should be renamed just because they have "names that few outside Wales can pronounce".

I hope "Heads of the Valleys" remains Blaenau Gwent, since the former is so ugly.

So, taking your map as a cue, the eastern part of Merionethshire, now in Clwyd, will form part of Caernarfon and Merionethshire (why not Meirionydd? — a Wirrall MP can surely get his tongue round a Welsh "dd") and Powys will sprawl even further north.

But I fear that, just as is the case with the nascent reform in Scotland, potential financial savings and further curtailment of local authority power have weighed more heavily with ministers than local loyalties and pretty names: these are mere propaganda points.

In Scotland the agenda seems to me clear: regional authorities would go, since the Scottish office apparently desires the removal of water, education, fire and police services from their remit as part of the so-called "empowerment of the consumer". Their remaining services — social and planning — are hardly high on the government's agenda.

So, without a commission, it seems that the government wants around 30 councils in Scotland. All we can hope is that the boundaries at least will be sympathetically drawn.

One plea I must make to Mr Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, is that he should remove rural areas from those dominated by large towns.

In particular, rural East Lothian should receive the divorce from Musselburgh and Tranent that it deserves.

As a former resident of the area I know that North Berwick and Dunbar have more in common with the Borders. Perhaps the planning policies of an Eastern Borders council would be less harmful to that area than present actions.

Yours sincerely,
IAIN B. H. WILSON,
15 Copse Lane,
Marston, Oxford.
March 3.

Luxor alert

From Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP for York (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, Your report on the threat from housing developments to ancient sites at Luxor (March 2) is timely.

I hope nothing is done before fuller archaeological surveys have been completed, and notably the EC-funded project under way at Luxor by the universities of York, Thessaloniki and Assyut (Upper Egypt). This will use techniques developed at York in which areas of archaeological potential are X-rayed from above, in this case also for water resources.

Earlier attempts at rehousing those living above the tombs (and thieving from them) have failed, in particular the fascinating nearby scheme at Gornia on the Nile.

The York survey will also cover the mile-long Avenue of the Sphinxes between the Temple of Luxor and that at Karnak. The avenue, much of which is now below ground, is being built over because the local authority claims nothing remains.

I am dismayed by the destruction of possibly the finest, and now because of charter flights most accessible, archaeological sites in the world. Through the European Parliament I am trying to raise continental awareness of the issue. Egypt's impoverishment, despite tourism, is the cause of the problem.

Yours etc,
EDWARD McMILLAN-SCOTT,
European Parliament,
Rue Belliard, Brussels 1040.
March 2.

Peace in Provence

From Mrs Julia King

Sir, I was angered to read in your report on the television serialisation of Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence* (March 2) that the film director James Cellan Jones would have liked it to contain some "ugliness or conflict".

If ugliness and conflict are what he seeks Mr Jones has only to read the rest of the page on which the report appears — other reports highlight the brutal realities of daily existence, including a killer on the run, a shop fight, a murder trial and the death of James Bulger.

For many of us *A Year in Provence*, with its gentle pace and humdrum inoffensive storyline, is a breath of fresh air.

It is sad that a portrayal of what might once have been considered "boring" normality now provides the escapism many people crave from the world that film-makers of the type Mr Jones admires have helped to create.

Yours faithfully,
JULIA KING,
5 Elm Grove, Erith, Kent.
March 3.

Palestinian deportees

From the Chief Executive, The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Sir, The letter from the director of Christian Aid and other charities condemning Israel (February 22) contains few surprises. But it is disappointing to see the omission of any understanding of the reasons underlying the Israel government's decision to expel, for a limited term, 400 leaders of Hamas.

How is it that six major charities, all professing a concern for human rights, can overlook the murderous essence of Hamas? Hamas publicly avows its dedication to the utter destruction of the state of Israel, its sacred obligation to murder Jewish people "wherever they may be found", and its unyielding hostility to the Middle East peace process.

The selective condemnation from the six charities did not display much understanding, charitable or otherwise, of the human rights needs of the citizens of Israel, whether Jewish, Christian or Muslim.

A more charitable assessment might have mentioned that during 1992 Hamas carried out more than 30 terrorist attacks against Israelis leaving 11 people dead. In the past five years, Palestinian terrorists have murdered 800 fellow Arabs, usually for the crime of seeking to live in peace with their Jewish neighbours.

Of course it is desirable to uphold resolutions of the UN Security Council. What a pity then that only one of the 22 Arab states has been prepared to recognise the resolutions of the UN in 1947 and 1948 which created the state of Israel or those of 1967 which laid down a framework for peace following the Six-Day War.

Your correspondents show no recognition that Israel's actions were prompted exclusively by the legitimate right of every state to guarantee the lives and security of its citizens. But maybe such a failure of understanding is only to be expected when non-political charities trespass into the political arena.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE NAGLER,
Chief Executive, The Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Woburn House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
March 1.

National Service

From Mr Keith M. Taylor

Sir, The benefits of reintroducing National Service identified by Woodrow Wyatt ("A way to end our gloom", February 23) would not be confined to reducing the numbers of unemployed. Thousands of reluctant National Servicemen of all ranks now look back on their two years with appreciation, if not gratitude, for the experience.

The benefits included physical fitness, self-reliance and confidence, understanding and respect for authority, the learning of a specific trade, the development of a sense of responsibility and concern for others. These timeless qualities in young people are in even greater demand by society today.

Under the *Options for Change* programme hundreds of experienced officers, warrant officers, NCOs and other ranks are facing compulsory, early, pensioned retirement. They could form the permanent training and management staff for a National Service organisation, which could conscript thousands of young people.

The Ministry of Defence, the Treasury and the Department of Employment might do well to consider this subject in some detail. The reintroduction of National Service in the UK deserves serious consideration.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH M. TAYLOR
(Chairman, Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School Reunion Dinner),
51 Northumberland Place, W2.
February 24.

Prescription charges

From Dr Ian G. Nisbet

Sir, Once again, we are facing increases in prescription charges, several times the rate of inflation, with the usual platitudes about making provision for those who cannot pay.

My rural practice contains a vast number of patients who, by working hard, earn just enough to prevent them receiving state benefits. However, their small disposable income has to be managed very strictly. A sudden requirement of £8.50 or £12.75 to fund two or three prescriptions will, in many cases, be impossible to find and this will adversely affect the treatment they can receive.

I firmly believe that the NHS should be free at the time of use and I regard prescription charges as, in effect, a tax on illness.

Yours sincerely,
IAN G. NISBET,
The Surgery, Feltwell, Norfolk.
March 3.

Word-processing

From Mr S. J. McCreary

Sir, If the Reverend Colin Alsbury (letter, March 4) sermonises in the same manner as he writes — one sentence of 59 words containing 11 commas — his flock might be forgiven an occasional lapse of attention.

Yours briefly,
S. J. McCREARY,
119 Heathfield Road,
West Moors, Dorset.
March 4.

Dangerous species?

From Mr Nigel Austin

Sir, I am sorry to hear about the inflated car insurance costs incurred by Lord Norwich (letter, February 22) and others of your correspondents (February 27, March 2) on account of their professions.

I am fortunate enough to be a local government officer. The insurance company therefore assumes I am a slow, ultra-cautious dullard, who would do anything rather than take a risk. Consequently my premiums are rock-bottom.

Yours faithfully,
N. V. AUSTIN,
62 Mellstock Avenue,
Dorchester, Dorset.

From Dr George D. W. Smith

Sir, I recently completed a car insurance proposal form for a leading insurance company, listing my employer as "The University of Oxford". Today I received a letter from the company seeking clarification concerning the nature of my employer's business.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE D. W. SMITH,
8 Tilgarsley Road, Eynsham,
Witney, Oxfordshire.
March 2.

From Mrs J. Manser

Sir, My insurance agent recently told me that, despite my record of no claims, my profession as a journalist puts me on a blacklist. Others on the list apparently include scrap metal merchants and advertising agents — and broadcasters, I presume.

On this sort of rough and ready assessment I should have thought the fact that I am a magistrate would have earned me some credit, but it doesn't.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE MANSER,
Morton House, Chiswick Mall, W4.

From Mr Jeremy Archer

Sir, While Viscount Norwich may feel aggrieved that he is apparently being penalised by a higher than average car insurance premium because of his profession as a "broadcaster" he can console himself that, following a much publicised recent BBC example, he might perhaps be able to offset such expenses against tax through a tax-efficient private company.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY ARCHER,
100 Haldon Road, SW18.
March 4.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 5: The Duke of Edinburgh, on behalf of The Queen, today visited Manchester and was received at Piccadilly Station by her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins) and the Lord Mayor of Manchester (Councillor William Egerton).

His Royal Highness this morning visited St Ambrose Gardens housing development, Salford, and was received by the Mayor of Salford (Councillor Kenneth Murray) and Sir Richard O'Brien (Vice-Chairman, Church Urban Fund).

Having toured the development, escorted by the Rev Canon Gerald Wheale (Chief Executive, Mosscare Housing Association), The Duke of Edinburgh officially opened the new development and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

His Royal Highness subsequently visited St Ambrose Church, was received by the Vicar (the Rev Andy Salmon), was shown an Exhibition of work of the Church Urban Fund and activities in the parish, and attended a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the opening.

The Duke of Edinburgh afterwards visited the National Children's Home Irlam Family Centre, Salford, and was received by the Chairman, National Homes (Sir Michael Checkland).

His Royal Highness toured the building, escorted by Mr Gerald Urey (North West Regional Director), and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

This afternoon The Duke of Edinburgh opened Terminal 2, Manchester Airport, and was received by the Chairman, Manchester Airport (Councillor John Flanagan).

After touring the building, escorted by the Chief Executive (Mr Gilbert Thompson), His Royal Highness unveiled a commemorative window and attended a luncheon.

Sir Kenneth Scott and Lieutenant Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

March 5: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning gave the Keynote Address to the Young Presidents' Organisation London, the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

Mrs Malcolm Innes was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended the Anglo-Finnish Round Table Conference, Ditchley Park, Oxford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire (Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Bt). Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

Birthdays

Today

Dr M.G. Adam, astrophysicist, 81; Sir Peter Barclay, chairman, Social Security Advisory Committee, 67; Miss Jean Boht, actress, 57; Mr William Davis, author, broadcaster and chairman, British Tourist Authority, 60; Professor Sir Charles Frank, physicist, 82; Sir Alistair Grant, chairman and chief executive, Argyll Group, 56; Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, president, Wolfson College, Oxford, 70; Mr Robert Innes, Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of Glasgow, 67; Mr Lorin Maazel, conductor, 63; Sir Hal Miller, former MP, 64; Mme Valentina Nikolayeva-Tereshkova, first woman in space, 56; Mr Richard Noble, world land speed record holder, 47; Dr J.H.P. Pafford, librarian, 93; Sir Ian Dixon Scott, diplomat, 84; the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, 64; Sir Peter Stallard, former colonial administrator, 78; Professor Marilyn Strathern, social anthropologist, 52; Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, opera singer, 49; Mr D.H. Whitaker, publisher, 62; Sir Oliver Wright, diplomat, 72.

Tomorrow

Mr David Arbuthnot, racehorse trainer, 40; Sir Robert Atkinson, former chairman, British Shipbuilders, 77; Mr William Boyd, author, 41; Mr W.A. Bromley-Davenport, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, 58; Viscount Chelmsford, 62; Mr G.A. Cooke, former chairman, C.T. Bowring, 70; Sir Ranulph Fiennes, explorer, 49; Sir Kenneth Green, vice-chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University, 59; Mr J.O. Hambro, former president, Hambros, 74; Mr Justice Hidden, 57; Mr R.F. Humm, former managing director, Ford Motor Company, 56; Sir Anthony Lambert, diplomat, 82; Sir John Latey, former High Court judge, 79; Mr Ivan Lendl, tennis player, 33; Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, 72; Mr Michael Oliver, racehorse trainer, 43; Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, sculptor, 69; Dame Beryl Paston Brown, former principal, Homerton College, Cambridge, 84; Professor Sir David Phillips, molecular biophysicist, 69; Mr Piers Paul Read, author, 52; Mr Viv Richards, cricketer, 41; the Earl of Snowdon, 63; Mr Richard Vernon, actor, 68; Dame Margaret Weston, former director, Science Museum, 67.

MARC ASPLAND



The great wallpaper of China: Philippa Mapes and Mark Sandford, students on a conservation course, working on an 80ft section of a 19th century Chinese wallpaper from Penrhyn Castle, near Bangor, north Wales, which has been cleaned and renovated at the Victoria and Albert Museum conservation studio

Royal engagements

TODAY: Prince Edward will attend the England v Scotland international rugby football match at Twickenham at 12.45.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the England v Scotland international rugby football match at Twickenham at 2.15.

TOMORROW: Prince Edward will attend the BAFTA craft awards at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, at 5.50.

Memorial service

Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Janvrin

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Janvrin was held yesterday in Gloucester Cathedral. Canon Alan Dunstan and the Rev P. Keslake officiated.

Mr Robin Janvrin and Mr Simon Janvrin, sons, read the lessons and Mrs Simon Janvrin, daughter-in-law, read from the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. Commander N.J. Scarlett-Streatfeild gave an address.

Sir Roy Strong

Sir Roy Strong will give a talk on small period gardens at the Royal Geographical Society on Tuesday, March 9, at noon, in aid of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council. Tickets for the talk with luncheon are £25 and £15 for the talk only. Further information is available from the council (telephone 071-602 8720).

Miss Dilys Rees

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Miss Dilys Rees will be held at The Royal School, Bath on Saturday, May 8, at 2.30pm.

Appointment

Geoffrey Harvey Kamil to be a Circuit Judge assigned to the north eastern circuit.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.E.J. Bagnall and Miss E. Kim

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Guy Bagnall, of Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex, and Eunah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Changsik Kim, of Seoul, Korea.

Mr J.G. Brookhouse and Miss L.M. Temple

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Brookhouse, of Putney, London, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Temple, of Holland Park, London.

Mr G.I.N. Clarkson and Miss K.M. Lasseter

The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, only son of the late Mr K.I.N. Clarkson and of Mrs M.E. Clarkson, of Godalming, Surrey, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Lasseter, of Emon, Surrey.

Mr B. Davies and Miss E.C. Micklewright

The engagement is announced between Benjamin, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.A. Davies, of 'Huish', Winterborne Zelstone, Blandford, Dorset, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.E. Micklewright, of 'The Dower House', Lower Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Mr C.P.H. Errington and Miss A.V. Baker Cresswell

The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs Roger Errington, of Morpeth, Northumberland, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gilfrid Baker Cresswell, of Preston Tower, Northumberland.

Mr R.N.R. Jones and Miss D.K. Johnstone

The engagement is announced between Richard Nicholas Rostron, son of Mr and Mrs W.R. Jones, of Ripley, Harrogate, and Deborah Kaye, daughter of the late Mr J.R. Bishop and of Mrs P. Bishop, of Adelaide, Australia.

Mr J.V.P. Lally and Miss H.Y. Dawe

The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs S. Lally, of Birmingham, and Hilary, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.A. Dawe, of Pipers Pool, Cornwall.

Mr H.G. Liddell and Miss P.A. Cowlishaw

The engagement is announced between Henry Grainger, eldest son of Mr Edward Liddell and the late Mrs Susan Liddell, of Hessle, East Yorkshire, and Penelope Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Cowlishaw, of Long Ditton, Surrey.

Mr P.J. Milhofer and Miss R.C. Oxley

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs A.C. Milhofer, of Grove, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.F. Oxley, of Ingatestone, Essex.

Marriages

Mr T.W. Morkill and Mrs J.M. Lockton

The marriage took place on February 27, 1993, between Mr Tom Morkill and Mrs Jean Lockton and was followed by a service of blessing at St Michael and All Saints, Hughenden.

Mr J.H. Nightingale and Mrs J.P. Laird

The marriage took place on Thursday, March 4, in London, between Mr James Nightingale, London, and Mrs Julie Laird, Appledore, Kent.

Old Felstedian Society

The centenary dinner of the Old Felstedian Society was held last night at the Park Lane Hotel. The President, Mr J.L. Bird, was in the chair and Mr J.A. Cockett was the guest of honour. Mr E.J.H. Gould, Headmaster of Felsted School, and members of the Board of Governors were also present.

Dinners

Woolmen's Company

Mr Barry H. Jefferson, Master of the Woolmen's Company, accompanied by members of the livery, yesterday visited the British Wool Marketing Board and Woolcombers (Processors) in Bradford. The Master presided at a dinner held later at Merchant Taylors' Hall, York. Mr Bernard Dineen and Mr Donald Holdsworth also spoke. The Master of the Company of Merchant Taylors' of York was among those present.

Old Crosbeians

Mr John Bailey, President of the Merchant Taylors' Old Boys' Association (Old Crosbeians), presided at the annual London dinner held last night at the Carlton Club. Captain Peter Dunt, RN, Mr Colin McFie, the President of the Old Merchant Taylors' Society and the Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, also spoke. The Master and Clerk of the Merchant Taylors' Company attended.

Royal Cruising Club

Mr John Vernon, Vice-Commodore of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, accompanied by Mrs Vernon, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal Cruising Club held last night at the Royal Thames Yacht Club. Mr Geoffrey Nockolds, Commodore, and Mrs Nockolds received the guests.

Service dinners

Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry

Major-General Sir Michael Palmer, Honorary Colonel of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, presided at the annual Red Rose dinner held last night at Kearsley House, Wigan.

University of Wales Air Squadron

Sir Aubrey Trotman-Dickenson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, and Air Chief Marshal Sir John Thomson, Commander-in-Chief, RAF Strike Command, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the University of Wales Air Squadron held last night at RAF St Athan. Squadron Leader Ron Powell, Commanding Officer, presided. The AOC and Commandant RAF College Cranwell, the Air Officer Wales and the Principal of the University College of Swansea were among those present.

The Royal Regiment of Wales

The Secretary of State for Wales was the principal guest at the annual St David's Day dinner of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot), held last night at Cardiff Castle. Major G.J.J. Neale presided and the guests were welcomed by Lieutenant-Colonel N.A. Jones, Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion. The Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan was among others present.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, dramatist, Paris, 1619; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, Durham, 1806; George du Maurier, caricaturist and novelist, Paris, 1834.

DEATHS: Davy Crockett, frontiersman, killed in the Battle of the Alamo, Texas, 1836; Louisa May Alcott, novelist, Boston, Massachusetts, 1888; Gottlieb Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1900; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Sir John Herschel, astronomer, Slough, Buckinghamshire, 1792; Lucia Mathews (known as Mme Vestris), actress, Soho, 1797; Sir Edwin Landseer, painter and sculptor, London, 1802; Piet Mondrian, painter, Amersfoort, The Netherlands, 1872; Maurice Ravel, composer, Ciboure, France, 1875.

DEATHS: St Thomas Aquinas, Dominican theologian, Fossanova, Italy, 1274; Aristide Briand, 11 times Premier of France, Nobel Peace laureate 1926, Paris, 1932; Percy Wyndham Lewis, writer and artist and founder of Vorticism, London, 1957; Stevie Smith (of Florence Smith), poet, London, 1971.

Church services tomorrow

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M. Responses (Byrd), Benedicite (Jackson in G), Benedictus (Howells Canterbury Service), Salvator mundi (Blow); 11 Sung Euch and Confirmation, Maria Zellermesse (Haydn), Ave verum (Hendrie), The Bishop of Dover; 3.15 E (with the Cathedral Company of Change Ringers), Responses (Byrd), Chichester Service (Berkeley), Lord, thou hast been our refuge (Vaughan Williams); 6.30 Sermon and Compline, Rev Dr C A Lewis.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Sung Euch and Confirmation. Voluntary in G (Stanley), O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Scherzo, Suite Modale (Peeters); 3 E, You are the maker (Walsh), Responses (Byrd), Walmisley in D minor, Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), Prelude and Fugue in C minor (Mendelssohn); 6.30 Night Prayers.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion, Canon Peter Southwell Sander; 11.15 Sung Euch, Open thy gates (Harrison), The Provost; 6 Choral E. Responses (Ebdon), Canticles (Holmes Fauxbourdons), Jehova, quam multi sunt (Purcell), Canon Paul Brett.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 10 Family Euch, Kyrie Sanctus and Benedictus (Rutter in D), Batten Short Service, Turn thee again (Attwood); 11.30 Choral M. Benedicite (Dyson in F), Benedictus, O most merciful (Bullock), Canon Owen Conway; 3.30 Choral E (sung by the choir of St Anne's Parish Church, Aigburth), Responses (Knowles), Stanford in C, Greater love hath no man (Ireland); 6.30 ES, Canon Biddell.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 M. Responses (Leighton), The Short Service (Byrd), When David heard (Weelkes), Canon Brown; 11.30 HC, Darke in F, Miserere mei, Domine (Byrd), Canon Pedley; 3.30 E. Responses (Rose), Stanford in C, When I survey the wondrous cross (Bertalot).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 Sung Euch, Schubert in G, Come, my way, my truth, my life (Vaughan Williams), The Precentor; 11.15 M. Responses (Tomkins), Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion), Wash me throughly (Wesley); 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, Fourth service (Batten), Remember, Lord, what is come upon us (Walmisley), The Bishop of Grimsby.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8 Holy Euch, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo; 9 Parish Euch, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo; 11 Sung Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Remember not, Lord, our offences (Purcell), The Dean; 12.15 Holy Euch (Lady Chapel); 3.30 Choral E, Jackson in G, Salvator mundi (Blow); 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, Rev S F Kirk.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 Holy Communion; 10.30 Sung Euch, Benedictus (Schubert), Canon John Atherton; 6.30 E. Responses (plainsong), Noble in B minor, O for a closer walk with God (Stanford), The Dean.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC; 11 Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), O Lord, look down from heaven (Battishill), Drop, drop, slow tears (Walton), Canon Roger Royle; 3 E (with presentation of choristers' awards), Watson in E, Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), Bishop John Yates.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Librarian; 10 Sung Euch, Father Eternal (Shepherd), Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Listen sweet dove (Ives), Organ: Prelude and Fugue in C major (Bach), The Treasurer; 6 E. Responses (Sanders), Moeran in D, the Lord hath been mindful (Wesley), Organ: Sonata No.4 first movement (Mendelssohn), The Deacon.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Sung Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Very Rev R Lewis; 11.30 M. Benedicite (Dyson in F), Benedictus (Harwood in A flat), Remember not, O Lord, our offences (Purcell); 3 E, The Second Service (Leighton), At the round earth's imagined corners (Parry), Rev G O Farran.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tomkins), Benedicite (Purcell), Hear my prayer (Purcell), Canon Paul Bates; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Missa Aedis Christi (Howells), Call to remembrance (Farrant), Canon Anthony Harvey; 3 E, Brewer in D, I waited for the Lord (Mendelssohn), Rev Doug Constable; 5.45 Organ recital; 6.30 ES, Rev Philip Chester.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Masses 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30 and 7; 10.30 SM and Ordination to the Diaconate; 10 MP; 2.30 Organ recital; 3.30 Solemn V & B, Magnificat primi toni (Lassus), Timor et tremor (Poulenc).

YORK MINSTER: 8 & 8.45 HC; 10 Sung Euch, Litany (Loosemore), Missa Brevis (Leighton), Canon Ralph Mayland; 11.30 M. Responses (Moore), The Lamentation (Bairstow), Benedictus in A (Stanford); 4 E, Sumsion in G, O Lord, in thy wrath (Gibbons), Rev Jean Mayland.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 11 Choral Euch, The Little Organ Mass (Haydn), O Salutaris Hostia (Nicholson), Organ: Prelude and Fugue in G minor (Dupré), Ven T W Pritchard, Archdeacon of Montgomery; 3.30 Choral E, Noble in B minor, Responses (Byrd), Lord, let me know mine end (Greene), Organ: Prelude and Fugue in C minor (Bach).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 6pm LM (Sat); 8, 10 (Children's service), 6 LM; 11.30 HM, O Quam Gloriosum (Victoria), O Taste And See (Vaughan Williams), Fr Anthony M Barratt; 2 Ghanaian Mass, Fr Enin; 5 Stations of the Cross, Fr A Barratt.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 HC, The Minister; 10 HC, Euge Bone (Tye), The Minister; 11.30 MS, Tristitia Vestra (Philips), The Minister; St Giles' at 6, Chamber Choir from Lithuania, Talk by Rev Dr J Philip Newell; 8 ES, Rev David Macleod.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Responses (Ashfield), Benedicite (Batten), Benedictus (Tallis Short Service), The Dean; 11.30 HC, The Rochester Mass (Ferguson), Hear the voice and prayer (Tallis); 3.15 E, Magnificat octavi toni (Morales), Nunc dimittis, Sicut cervus (Palestrina), Organ: Vater unser im Himmelreich (Bach), Rev Christopher Hill.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Dundee: 8 HC; 9.40 Sung Communion; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Ave Jesu (Oldroyd), Blessed be the God (Amner), Right Rev L E Luscombe; 6.30 Choral E, Noble in A minor, Jehova quam multi sunt (Purcell), The Provost.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 & 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Versa est in luctum (Lobo), The Vicar; 6 E & B, Fauxbourdons (Willan), O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons), Rev P McGeary.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev Christopher Hobbs; 6.30 Choir Anthem, Make a joyful noise (Hoddinott), Rev Preb Richard Bewes.

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev J Schmidt.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Mass in B flat (Mozart), Penitential Psalm VII (Lassus).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 Parish Communion (Addington Service), Rev P Elvy; 6 E, Organ: Fantasia in A minor (Gibbons).

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 HC, Like as the Hart desireth the water brooks (Howells), Rev Stanley Hood; 6.30 HC, Rev Stanley Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa Sancti Crucis (Haydn), Justorum animae (Stanford), Miserere mei (Lotti).

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev Tom Gillum; 11 Informal Service (Creche and Children's Church), Mr Jeremy Jennings; 6.30 Informal Service, Rev Nicholas Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Sexti toni (Croce), Super flumina Babylonis (Victoria), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Miserere mei (Victoria).

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 MS & HC, In the world ye shall have tribulation (Ball), How glad are those with peace of mind (Meditation), Ave verum (Elgar), Rev Dr Gordon E Barritt and Rev Paul Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 Rev Stanley Whittington (Bangor); 6.30 Rev Dr R John Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Manatee Community College Chamber Choir of Bradenton, USA, Rev Wayne D Swanson; 7 Choral Mass (Karl Marx), Mass for four voices, Rev Ronald T Englund.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, The Rector; 6.30 E, The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Benedicite (Ashfield), The Hereford Service (Berkeley), Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), Organ: Psalm Prelude Set 1, No.1 (Howells), Canon John Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Tomkins), Byrd Second Service, O Lord God of Hosts (Purcell), Canon John Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Leighton), Call to Remembrance (Farrant), Rev A T R Goode.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 Missa ad fugam (Palestrina), Tristitia et anxietas (Byrd).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 Sung Euch, Missa Sancti Dominici (Rubbra), Tristis est anima mea (Leo), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: This will be the first Sunday service in the new restored church since it was badly damaged by a falling crane in September 1991. 10.30 Sung Euch.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 & 12.15 HC; 10.30 Sung Euch, Missa de angelis, Civitas sancti tui (Byrd), Rev Derek Watson; 6.30 E, Credo in unum Deum (Lobo), Jesus est detaché de la Croix (Dupré), Rev Dr Edward Norman.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10 Family C; 11 Sung Euch, Ley in E minor, A Litany (Walton), Rev Joanna Yates.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 Sung Euch, Missa Brevis Sancti Johannis de Deo (Haydn), Salvator Mundi (Blow), Rev Roger Holloway; 1 Horse Rangers Association Service, Rev Jeremy Caddick.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, St Martin's Service (Stringer), Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (arr Stringer), In paradisum (Fauré), Organ: Praeludium in D minor (Buxtehude); David Plant; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Responses (Aylewarn), I was glad (Purcell), Organ: Sonata IV first movement (Bach), Rev Martin Heawood; 12.30 HC; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev Gilbert Lee; 5 Choral E, Responses (Tomkins), Second Service (Tomkins), When David heard (Tomkins), Organ: Fantasia in G minor (Bach); 6.30 ES, Organ: Etoile du Soir (Vierne), The Vicar.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Choral Euch, Missa Lumen de Lumine (Berkeley), O Sacrum Convivium (Vann).

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8 & 9 HC; 11 Solemn Eucharist, Missa Diaphonica (Hodson), Turn thee unto me O Lord (Boyce), O come hither (Greene), Canon Douglas Rhymes.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 Sung Euch, Missa Euge Bone (Tye), Rev Fr Alan Chidwick.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8 & 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Sine Nomine (Asola), Have mercy upon me O God (Tomkins), Adoramus Te Christe (Lassus), Fr Christopher Colven; 6 Stations of the Cross and Benediction.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 Sung Euch, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Canon E Buchanan.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 Choral Euch, O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Ave verum corpus (Philips), The Chaplain; 3.30 E, Humfrey in E minor, Bring us O Lord God (Harris).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 Sung Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Emendemus in melius (Byrd), Rev Preb John Gaskell.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 Sung Euch, Byrd Short Service and Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina).

ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Rev John Cowling; 11 M & Sermon, Responses (Byrd), Te Deum, Benedicite (Ridout), O Vos Omnes (Gesualdo), Rev Gordon D Watkins.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Hide not thou thy face from us O Lord (Farrant), Responses (Rose), Benedicite omnia opera (Sumsion in B flat), Benedictus (Ireland in C), Remember, O Lord, what is come upon us (Walmisley), Organ: Fugue No.3 on B.A.C.H. (Schumann), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: Services at Chelsea Barracks, SW1. 11 HC, Hide not thy face (Farrant), Mass: Ley in E minor, Haste Thee, O God (Batten), Organ: March from Suite in F (Holst), Rev D M T Walters (Band of The Blue and Royals).

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 Sung Euch, O Saviour of the world (Goss), Expectans Expectavi (Wood), The Chaplain.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TEL: 071 481 4000 FAX: 071 481 9313

Because God himself has passed through the test of suffering, he is able to help those who are in the midst of their test.
Hebrews 2:18 (REB)

BIRTHS

BAILLIE - On March 3rd, to Julia (née Fraser) and David, a daughter, Flora Jane, a sister for James.

BANNER - On March 4th to Catherine (née Scarr) and Roderick, a son (Theodore John Renforth), a brother for Thomas.

CHEATER - On March 2nd, to Diana (née Chesterman) and Paul, a daughter, Alice Sarah, a sister for Hannah and Tom.

CLANCY - Born on 24th February to Joanna (née Thomas) and David, a son, Jack, a brother for Katie and Harry.

CORBETT - On March 3rd, to Jane (née Luckock) and Hugh, a son, Charles Edwin Hugh.

GREAVES - On 1st March, 1993, to Patty (née Comyn) and Mark, a daughter, Madeleine Elizabeth, a sister for Emma and Oliver.

HAMILTON-MARTIN - On March 4th, at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey, to Frances (née Shepherd) and Duncan, a beautiful daughter, Zoe Anne, a little sister for Roger.

HURST - On 3rd March 1993, to John and Sue (née Angell), two sons, Christopher David (2.34 kg) and Anthony George (1.92 kg) at St Georges Hospital. Many thanks to staff on Gwillim ward.

KELLY - On 28th February 1993, to Anna (née Dawson) and Neil, a daughter, Katherine.

MCCULLOUGH - On March 1st, to Tim and Clare, a son, Michael Sean at Kings College Hospital. Deo Gratias

OGDON - On 25th February, to Jessica (Rockley) and Richard, a son, George Anthony Howard.

RODGERS - On 27th February, to Joe and Maxine (Née Prince-Wright) a son, Luke Aaron.

TOSTEVIN - On March 4th, in Guernsey, to Elizabeth (née Garrity) and Adrian, a daughter, Abigail Elizabeth, a sister for Gregory.

BIRTHS

VAN DER WOUDE - Nicolas, born on March 4th. Merrilyn and Nicolas well. Anton and David delighted.

DEATHS

AMHERST - On March 4th, at home in his 97th year, Jeffery, 5th Earl Amherst MC. Cremation will be private, and at his wish there will be no Memorial service.

BEWLEY - On March 4th peacefully after a short illness, in St. Leonards Hospice, York, Wing Commander John George (Chota Bewley) aged 78 years of Hessay, beloved husband of Audrey dearly loved father of Paul, Clive, Gavin and Annabel and a much loved grandpa.

BOND - Patricia Julia (Tricia), aged 48, on 2nd March 1993, peacefully in hospital after a short illness. Dearly loved sister of Rosemary and Vaill. Cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday 10th March at 11:30 am.

CHADWICK - On 3rd March 1993, Dom Wilfrid, Monk of Belmont Abbey, Parish Priest of Weobley and Kington. Funeral Mass at Belmont on March 10th at 11.30am.

CHUBB - On March 4th, The Hon. David Chubb, Commander R.N. (rtd), loved husband, father and grandfather. Service at St. Mary's Church, Broughton, 2.30 pm, March 11th. No flowers please but donations if desired to K.G. Fund For Sailors, 1 Chesham Street, SW1.

COHEN - Leslie Samuel. On March 4th peacefully at home after a long illness courageously endured. Beloved father of Penny, grandfather of Amanda, Emma and Simon, great grandfather of Samantha and William. Funeral strictly private. No flowers. Donations, if desired, to Liverpool Youth and Community Centre, Harold House, Dunbabin Road, L15 6XL.

DEATHS

CURRAN - Lady Silvia, wife of the late Sir Charles Curran, mother of Dr Philippa Curran and 'Nonnie' to Frances and Alison, died at home on 3rd March 1993. Funeral 12 midday on Thursday 11th March 1993 at St Gregory's Catholic Church, Union Street, Barnet, Herts. Followed by cremation at Golders Green Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to: The Headmistress, St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, Nether Street, Finchley, London N12 7NJ.

FARDELL - On March 4th 1993, George Emery (Jimmy) Captain RN (Ret'd), peacefully at home, aged 87. Beloved husband of Mary, dearly loved father of Marion and Mariota and step-father of Jane and devoted grandfather. Funeral on Tuesday March 9th at Kingswear Parish Church at 2.30pm. Family flowers only.

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FAULKNER - On March 4th 1993, at home, David Faulkner, husband of Victoria, father of John, Kate, Tom, Matthew and Robert. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Longworth on March 10th at 11.30am. No flowers, donations to MENCAP Appeals, c/o J. Godfrey & Son, Buckland, Faringdon, Oxon.

MLADEK - On March 3rd 1993, peacefully at the Royal Brompton Hospital London, Zdenek, much loved Husband, father and grandfather. Service to be held at Farm Street Church on Wednesday 10th March at 2.00 pm, followed by private cremation at Putney Vale Cemetery. Flowers may be sent C/o J H Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, Kensington London W8. Donations if desired to the Royal Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, London.

DEATHS

RIDLEY OF LIDDESDALE - On March 4th, peacefully at home after a long illness, Nicholas the Rt. Hon. Baron Ridley of Liddesdale, beloved husband of Judy and father of Jane, Susanna and Jessica. Private family funeral. Memorial service to be announced later.

SMALLWOOD - On March 1st, very peacefully at Regency Court, Littlehampton, Lilian Margaret Pritchard aged 89 years, formerly of Rustington. Funeral Service at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, on Friday March 12th at 2.40 pm. No flowers please, but donations to The Children's Society may be sent c/o F.A. Holland & Son, Terminus Road, Littlehampton. tel: (0903) 713939.

SMITHERMAN - Frank M.B.E. aged 79 years, loving husband of Frances, very peacefully in his sleep on March 5th. Funeral Service 2.30pm on Friday March 12th at St. Martins church, Newbuckenham, followed by cremation no flowers please, but any donations to St. Martins Church roof fund may be sent c/o R.J. Bartram & Son Funeral Directors, Wymondham Norfolk.

SMITH - Alan Fausing. Suddenly on 2nd of March 1993, beloved husband of Jane. He also leaves three sons, Martin, Richard and Alaric, and two grandchildren Emily and Harry. Cremation at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon on Wednesday March 10th at 12 noon. Enquiries 0672 512110.

WAGER - On March 3rd 1993, peacefully in his sleep at Salisbury Hospital, Harold Geoffrey, aged 90 years. Beloved husband of Kit and loved father of Jennifer, Harriet, Ellen and Belinda.

WELCH - Eric Edward, formally of Kenton, Middlesex. On March 3rd 1993, unexpectedly at home in Bristol. Loved husband of Myrtle and father of Jennifer, Judith and Martin. Private Funeral on March 11th.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

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FULLER - In loving memory of Jill on this her birthday and of our many happy years spent together. Emil.

LEWIS - In memory of Wyndham Lewis, died 7th March 1957, and Froanna.

NOVELLO - Ivor, 6th March 1951. Still so sadly missed and remembered every day.

STANLEY - Dorothy Kincaid. As she was, so she still is, and always will be.

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PORTER - Elizabeth. Congratulations on your 21st birthday and best wishes for your future. Love Mum, Dad and James.

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BACHELOR, ANNIE MARGARET MARY, Iron Mill Cottage, Oldford, Frome, Somerset. Died 4th December 1992: Particulars to Middleton & Upsall, 2 North Parade, Frome, Somerset. Before 7th May 1993.

HOPLEY, NORMAN THOMAS JOHN, 8 Finch Court, Lansdown Road, Sidcup, Kent. Died 12th January 1992: Particulars to Piper, Smith & Basham, Solicitors of, 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF (Ref:H172.1.MS.GAO) Before 15th May 1993.

KELLY, EDWARD NOEL of 13 Shaw Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire died 2nd January 1992: Particulars to Black Graf & Co., 14-15 College Crescent, London NW3 5LL (Ref HD/2064) before 14th May 1993.

PHILIP, Miss Ethel Beatrice of Branch Hill House, Branch Hill, Hampstead, London formerly of 104 Trelawney Road, Ilford, Essex IG5 2NW died on 11th October 1992: Particulars to Simmonds Church Smiles (Ref PC) Solicitors of 13 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BU before 7 May 1993.

RAWLINS, EVELYN MARGARET of 17 Kelsie Way, Hainault, Essex died on 14th February 1993: Particulars to Foskett, Marr, Gadsby & Head; Solicitors of 181 High Street, Epping, Essex CM16 4BQ before 7th May 1993.

TAYLOR, DAVID BRIAN, 25 New Street, Oadby, Leicester Died 10th January 1993: Particulars to Philip J Hammond & Sons, Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane, Leicester LE1 5QX before 7th May 1993.

WANTED

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TRAVEL companion (female 50-60yrs) for trip to Italy in April/May. Tel 071 371 1891.

OBITUARIES

LORD RIDLEY OF LIDDESDALE

Lord Ridley of Liddesdale, PC. Conservative politician who was a minister in all three of Mrs Thatcher's governments, died of cancer on March 4 aged 64. He was born on February 17, 1929.



NICHOLAS RIDLEY claimed with truth that he was a Thatcherite before Margaret Thatcher and he remained resolutely and publicly Thatcherite after her fall from power. During the short period of his life which remained after that, he continued to proclaim the views he had held throughout the Thatcher years and, indeed, for all his political life. He was the most consistent advocate of the market as the one true liberating mechanism of society and he held to his economic convictions with the same sense of revelation which had sent his distant ancestor, Bishop Ridley, to the stake. He was once asked what he thought should be accomplished by a fourth Thatcher government and replied: "Nothing. That is the correct policy for a government." He was not being entirely flippant.

Despite his unrepentant Thatcherism he surprised some of his friends recently by doubting the wisdom of John Major-style rail privatisation, and as recently as last Wednesday he was advocating in *The Times* taxing the better-off by raising the higher rate of income tax to 50 per cent. This was in the context of a warning from Ridley that a general increase in taxation was a prerequisite for economic recovery, and that the government should be "prepared to do unpopular things if the national interest demands them."

As he was one of Mrs Thatcher's leading ministers, at transport, at environment and at trade and industry, Ridley's beliefs have left their mark on the face of Britain. Contempt for the beliefs of others, however, contributed to the errors and even blunders which marked his career and culminated in the indiscretion which forced his resignation.

He had a well-justified reputation for intellectual arrogance and was not helped by his obvious distaste for the art of public relations. In the House he was abrasive, sometimes vitriolic. At news conferences he sat with a cloud of smoke over his head — he chain-smoked four packs of tipped cigarettes a day — and treated questions with almost insolent dismissiveness. In Whitehall he was truly formidable, respecting no hierarchy, remorseless with officials, questioning complacent quangos, providing floods of ideas, prepared to work 18 hours a day. To the opposition, and to some members of his own party, he was the most unpopular of Mrs Thatcher's ministers. At close quarters, however, he generated a surprising and passionate loyalty, not least from his civil servants.

He could be charming as well as rude and some suspected that his public manner masked an element of private shyness. There was an elegance about his dogmatism, and his sharp tongue and sharper mind were qualities appreciated more in Whitehall than at the Palace of Westminster. He was at his best when things went wrong and it was noticeable that the leaving parties given for him at his various ministries all seemed marked by genuine, if wary, affection.

Ridley was the second son of the third Viscount Ridley. Inevitably, there were suggestions that his whole character was influenced by being a younger son. He maintained that any influence would have been for the good because it allowed him to do what he wanted. Still, his brother Matthew did inherit the viscountcy, the vast country house, some 10,000 acres and most of the family fortune. Ridley was left £10,000 and complained frequently about his lack of money. His circumstances must have contributed to many of his attitudes — opposition to all establishments ranging from consensus-seeking Tory governments to fat-cat trade unionists, contempt for those who had things too easy, appreciation for those who had fought their way upwards. He never passed through the Liberal or Labour phases of some of his colleagues. He was never even a left-wing Tory. He was saying that people should stand on their own feet long before it became a Thatcherite commandment. In the considerable Ridley vocabulary of invective there was no worse word than paternalism.

He was educated at Eton and Balliol. He wanted to be an architect, following his celebrated maternal grandfather, Sir Edwin Lutyens, who had created the Viceroy's House in New Delhi. But his father thought he should become an engineer. They compromised; Ridley reading mathematics and engineering at Oxford, before becoming a civil engineer and rising to managing director of his firm in the north east.

Nine previous Ridleys had been MPs and Nicholas Ridley followed the family tradition. He started by fighting Blyth in 1955. This was a Ridley town, largely built by them and operated as a coal port in the past. If this was a gesture to his family it was a hopeless one. He lost predictably and massively but by the 1959 election had found a better constituency in the safe Tory seat of Cirencester and Tewkesbury, which he represented for the rest of his Commons career.

He made little impression in the House at first. Few recognised his promise. The only surprising thing was his spell as PPS to Sir Edward Boyle, the outstanding "wet" of his day. They had little in common except Eton and good conversation. In opposition Ridley was made a junior spokesman in various fields but he had to wait for the Conservative victory of 1970 before achieving anything of significance. He was briefly a junior minister at Technology before Edward Heath made him Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Trade and Industry. He left this post after two years, refusing the prime minister's offer of the arts ministry, claiming that he could not support the the Heath government's industry bill U-turn. He had shown his colours before when he opposed the Macmillan plan to lend £500 million to the National Coal Board in 1961 and he had voted for Powell against Heath in the 1965 leadership election.

It was no surprise, therefore, when he found it impossible to remain in the government. His resignation was a well publicised affair, and with Jock Bruce-Gardyne and John Biffen he went on to fight Heath's counter-inflation plans from the back benches.

When the Conservatives lost the second election of 1974 Ridley's flat off Victoria Street was the scene of some of the meetings of the anti-Heath faction. Ridley's first choice as new leader was Sir Keith Joseph, and he settled for Margaret Thatcher with some reluctance as he thought she could not win. His pessimism proved unjustified, his career was modestly advanced and he became Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (he had hoped to be in the Cabinet as Secretary of State for Trade). It was not an entirely happy experience — like so many of his appointments. Labour soon demanded his resignation when he announced the end of the arms embargo against Chile.

His time at the FCO is best remembered for his attempt to settle the Falklands dispute. He visited the islands first in 1979 and returned with a plan to yield Falklands sovereignty to Argentina in return for a lease-back agreement. He was booed off the islands and when he returned, utterly jet-lagged, and went immediately to the House of Commons, he took a hammering there. Tories, Labour and Liberals combined to attack Ridley personally and the plan. His warning that Britain must discuss sovereignty with Argentina or prepare effectively to defend the islands was ignored. By the time the invasion came, and he had been proved right, Mrs Thatcher had moved him to become Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

In 1983 he was made Transport Secretary. Almost immediately he went to the Motor Show in a French car. He defended his action by asserting the consumer's right to choice, turning his decision to buy a foreign car into a political act. It was not an argument which appealed to British manufacturers. His ministry continued to be controversial. Ridley began by announcing the intention to privatise British Airways. He expanded Stansted Airport after years of argument, allowed the Okehampton by-pass to cut through a national park, reduced rail and bus subsidies, spotted a way to start the Channel tunnel without a public inquiry and pushed through bus deregulation against the opposition of 90 per cent of the industry. Protests were rebutted or ignored and the measures forced through with no regard for his personal popularity. For him loyalty to the Thatcherite revolution came first.

After three years he was appointed Secretary of State for the Environment. Labour-controlled councils were his main target. He never had a taste for any sort of local government and he would have liked to strip down all councils until few if any of their functions remained. He made no secret of his views — or his intentions. Some Labour councils were singled out as "rotten", "stinking" or "totalitarian". Greens were described as "pseudo-Marxists". He went too far with his colourful phrases, however, when in the wake of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* disaster he quipped that William Waldegrave, his minister in charge of a bill, was not going out with his bow doors open. For this he made, unusually, an apology. He often had difficulty in distinguishing between affronting complacency and outraging human feelings. He faced more criticism — much from his own side — over water privatisation, over building on the site of the Rose Theatre and for giving permission to create a new town in Hampshire's green belt (to say nothing of granting permission to Peter Palumbo to demolish the Mansion House/Mappin and Webb site).

His action over the community charge also came under fire. The final consequences of his decision that the poll tax should be introduced immediately, instead of being phased in over ten years, came with Mrs Thatcher's resignation in 1990. As it was, 30 Tory MPs rebelled against his community charge Bill when it had its second reading. He never sought to ingratiate himself with his colleagues and soon after the community charge revolt he mocked south-eastern Tory MPs for their NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) attitude to house building. It was, therefore, unfortunate that within weeks it became known that he had objected to an application to build houses at the bottom of his garden in the Cotswolds. Later there was more publicity when he attempted to divert a public footpath away from his cottage in Cumbria. He was not really created to be an environment secretary and it came as a relief even to his friends when he was moved to another department in 1989.

It is claimed that the first question he asked after arriving at the Department of Trade and Industry in 1989 was: "What is this place *for*?". The very idea of such a department offended his supreme belief that governments should not interfere in the running of commerce and industry. Controversy followed him again. There was trouble in the Commons when he took no action against the Al-Fayed brothers over the takeover of Harrods and the House of Fraser, even though an inquiry by his own DTI had accused them of deceit. This was followed by apparent floundering over the Iraqi supergun; a row when his department blocked a City takeover by mistake; and dispute over "sweeteners" (though this was really Lord Young's responsibility) paid during the British Aerospace-Rover take over.

Then, in July 1990, after he had been resisting accelerated moves into the Exchange Rate Mechanism, he gave an interview to *The Spectator* that threatened to break the government's fragile unity on Europe. The interview, resulting from his underlying fear that Germany would dominate the pound in a fixed system, leading to higher inflation and greater recession, contained expressions obviously unacceptable in a cabinet minister in 1990. Ridley talked of monetary union being a German racket designed for it to take over the whole of Europe. The French were poodles. The European Commission was run by 17 unelected, rejected politicians. "I'm not against giving up sovereignty but not to this lot," he said. "You might as well give it to Adolf Hitler, frankly." Ridley was not anti-European. At one time he had seemed positively federalist — he even co-authored a pamphlet advocating a united Europe in the 1960s — but ever since the publication of the Delors report he had become increasingly alarmed at the momentum driving Britain towards Euro-federalism.

He was in Hungary when the *Spectator* interview appeared and was seemingly unaware of the exact scope of the article or the fuss it would cause. Doubts were expressed at first about whether it would be necessary for him to resign. Mrs Thatcher's feeling was one of loyalty to an old friend, to one who shared her views and even influenced them and who had been prepared for ridicule, dislike and even hatred in order to sustain her revolution. Eventually, after an embarrassing delay, what should have been obvious in the first place was agreed. Mrs Thatcher, who had accepted so many other indiscretions from him, was forced to accept Nicholas Ridley's resignation.

He was a man of great courage, sometimes subtle but never tricky, incapable of dishonesty, inflexible of purpose. He lacked one thing — a capacity to dissemble. He said what he thought, sometimes with disastrous results. He was a high-risk politician and in talking so frankly to Dominic Lawson, the editor of *The Spectator*, he took one risk too many. It was the job of Lawson's father, Nigel Lawson, that he had coveted after Lawson himself resigned in October 1989. He had many qualifications for the post but he had attracted altogether too much opprobrium to be given one of the great offices of state. In his July 1990 letter of resignation he revealed that even before the *Spectator* affair he had decided to retire at the next election. He hoped Mrs Thatcher would be there to win a fourth term but he had shrewdly concluded that he would have a diminishing influence even on a future guided by her.

After Margaret Thatcher's fall, he wrote the best of the post-1990 ministerial memoirs (apart from Nigel Lawson's), *My Style of Government: The Thatcher Years*, as well as starring in a memorable edition of *Panorama* entitled "Mr Ridley's Europe". He was also a journalist of some distinction — contributing a number of articles to *The Times* and latterly (even more remarkably) to *The Spectator*.

Ennobled as a life peer in the 1992 Dissolution Honours, and taking the title Lord Ridley of Liddesdale, he returned to his native Cumbria and resolved that he would devote himself to writing and to art — he was a water colourist of professional standard. Outdoors, perhaps he would create another masterpiece like the water garden he had created at his home in the Cotswolds. He might choose to change his life but, like Bishop Ridley, he would not change his beliefs. If his final illness prevented him from being conventionally active in the House of Lords, he nevertheless continued to make his political presence felt through his writings.

He married, in 1950, Clayre, daughter of the fourth Baron Stratheden and Campbell and they had three daughters. The marriage was dissolved in 1974 and five years later he married Judy Kendall, who survives him.

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Arthur Miller's The Last Yankee
"Uniformly Splendid" D.Mail
"Masterful Production" S.Tms
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LUIS ALBERTO SOLE-ROMEO

Dr Luis Alberto Sole-Romeo, Uruguayan ambassador in London since 1987, died of cancer on February 20 aged 58. He was born on August 1, 1934.

LUIS SOLE was appalled by the 12 years of military government in Uruguay between 1973 and 1985 when democratic institutions were suspended. However he tried hard in his editorials for *El Dia* and the lively weekly *Correo de los viernes*, which he co-founded in 1961, to keep alive the notions of fundamental human rights and freedom. In 1982 he was one of the first Uruguayans to express public condemnation of Uruguay's neighbour, Argentina, for its aggression against the Falklands.

Luis Sole was a member of the Colorados, one of Uruguay's two historic parties. While overt political activity was impossible under the military government, he maintained quiet contacts with other democratic politicians, who negotiated the deal with the military regime. Through their efforts, Uruguay was able to return peacefully to her democratic institutions in 1985.

When he was appointed ambassador to London in 1987 Sole was well equipped for diplomacy, despite its being his first overseas diplomatic post. A Doctor in Law and Social Sciences, he brought with him considerable experience of the communications, human rights and political affairs.

From 1985 to 1987 he had been legal diplomatic counsellor and director of maritime affairs in the ministry of foreign affairs. Simultaneously, he had pursued journalism, writing for various publications and adding broadcasting to his media interests.

He was particularly involved in media communications in Latin America, both as a participant in meetings of Unesco and the International Press Institute and as president of the International Association of Broadcasting.

During his five years as ambassador in London he injected new life into the historic ties between Uruguay and Britain in the political, commercial and cultural fields. A man of wide-ranging interests and naturally sociable, he assiduously widened his embassy's contacts, lecturing to rapt audiences throughout the country. He entertained a stream of official visitors from Uruguay, ably supported by his wife, and made his residence a happy meeting place where his guests always enjoyed excellent food and wine, lively conversation and laughter.

He is survived by his wife, Monica, three daughters from his first marriage and three stepchildren.

THE ORDEAL OF MADRID

THIRTY MONTHS BESIEGED

From a Correspondent lately in Spain

Three years ago Madrid was a gay, happy-go-lucky city where nothing ever attained its due share of immediate attention, where all events were received with an incredulous smile and commented on with facile wit, where people were friendly and talked easily—too easily—where life flowed leisurely, weather was pleasant, living was cheap, and work never very hard. To-day, under the double strain of an incredibly violent revolutionary process within its gates and a merciless war without, only the cynicism, blunted by suffering, remains.

Food, after a 31 months' siege, remains the first of ever-recurring worries. An obsession, it even takes precedence over the war as a conversational theme, and indeed this is no wonder in a city where butter, eggs, milk, coffee, fish and fresh meat have long been only memories. The rice, lentils, beans, salted cod, chick-peas, the bread, oil, sugar, salt, the occasional fruit and vegetables are all strictly rationed in quantities barely sufficient for existence. Two and a half years of such a regimen has told profoundly on the physique and moral of the population. The work of the only relief organizations operating in Madrid, whose milk and other supplies have saved countless lives threatened by starvation, represents only a fraction of the assistance the town requires if a determined check is to be put on the increasing death-rate and on the rising tide of tuberculosis, psycho-neurosis, and other physical and moral ills. An indelible mark is being left on the coming generation.

Madrid has not been bombed from the air since February 1937, but its proximity to the fronts renders it liable to a sudden aeroplane attack at any moment. Yet air raid precautions have been surprisingly lackadaisical . . . There are no Catholic churches open in Madrid, though Masses are said privately. In the Protestant churches, on the other hand, services are freely held with practically the same frequency as before the war. The very fact that they dissented from the Catholic Church was deemed sufficient proof that they were in favour of the Government. That the British church of St. George has not been opened for worship more often is mainly due to the absence of a regular clergyman; never has any official objection been raised to it.

Other British institutions have continued their work without a break. The Chamber of Commerce, busily engaged, in conjunction with the Consulate, from the very beginning of the war in protecting British trade interests against seizure by workmen's committees or trade unions, has increased its membership. The British American Club, despite difficulties in the obtaining of drinks, has never closed its doors. The British American Nursing Home, ever surmounting the trying conditions under which it has had to fulfill its humanitarian activities, still takes care of British and American cases.

ON THIS DAY

March 6 1939

The article from which this glimpse of Madrid under siege is taken appeared the day after the Republican government fled into France, and a month before Nationalist troops moved into the city.

NEWS

Major fights back against rebels

■ An orchestrated attempt to wear down the Conservative party's Maastricht rebels began yesterday with a succession of demands from ministers for loyalty to John Major.

As the prime minister prepared to appeal for party unity, senior ministers warned MPs that if they continued their antics they would split the party, wreck economic recovery and plunge the EC into chaos .....Pages 1, 8

Warm tributes for Lord Ridley

■ Baroness Thatcher last night led the tributes to Lord Ridley, one of the most controversial and colourful Conservative ministers of the past decade. Lord Ridley of Liddesdale died peacefully at home on Thursday night, aged 64, after a long illness..... Pages 1, 5, 19

Masters return

Two eighteenth-century Old Masters stolen from Lincoln's Inn Fields more than two years ago have reappeared wrapped in a bin liner after an amateur collector bought them for £145 from a market stall..... Page 1

Police tables

Kenneth Clarke is demanding *that national league tables of* police performance be published in spite of fierce resistance from senior officers and Home Office officials. He is determined to expose the police nationally to public scrutiny in the way that schools publish examination league tables..... Page 2

Extra judges

An extra ten High Court judges, who will receive automatic knighthoods, are to be appointed as soon as possible, the Lord Chancellor announced yesterday..... Page 6

Church syllabus

The education secretary John Patten is to ask church leaders to help to strengthen religious education in schools by drawing up a national blueprint for lessons..... Page 10

Emergency session

Russia has called an emergency *session of the country's supreme* legislature to tackle the constitutional deadlock that is paralysing the government and eroding President Yeltsin's authority..... Page 11

Hong Kong hitch

Britain and China have dug in *for a period of diplomatic trench* warfare over Hong Kong as Chris Patten was compelled to delay the gazetting of key legislation for the third time... Page 13

Cult denial

Heather Jones, 9, was released from the compound of the *Branch Davidian cult in Waco,* Texas, bringing to 21 the number of children released. In negotiations David Koresh, the cult leader, denied that he was contemplating ordering a mass suicide..... Page 14

Stealing the royal limelight

■ Two pigs stole the show when the Princess of Wales visited a Red Cross centre in Nepal, leaving her laughing as security men scampered around in the dust to head them off. "Good job they can't fly," a British diplomat observed as the pigs gambolled beside the royal helicopter..... Page 13

ADRIAN BROOKS



Nose job: a red nose was attached to the BT tower in London yesterday to support the Comic Relief charity night on March 12

BUSINESS

Cornerstone: The slow recovery in housing continued with building starts rising 4pc in the three months to January..... Page 21

Markets: Sterling rose strongly against the mark and shares closed at a record high. *The pound ended* up 3.34 pfennigs at DM2.4090 but eased against the dollar, closing down .47 cents at $1.4490. The FT-SE 100 index rose 17.3 to 2,922.1..... Page 24

SPORT

Cricket: *An undefeated 105 by* Graeme Hick was eclipsed by a breathtaking 95 by Mohammad Azharuddin that carried India to victory over England with eight balls to spare..... Page 36

Rugby: "Stuart Barnes has been called maverick, gambler, *enfant terrible.* Supporters of Newport and Bristol thought of much worse names." David Hands profiles England's new stand-off..... Page 39

Damned at Covent Garden: On Monday the Royal Opera performs Berlioz's massive *Le Damnation de Faust,* a work which its composer never intended to be staged. Sir Colin Davis, the conductor, *believes the production will be a* revelation.....Weekend 14

Sax appeal: The young British saxophonist Dave O'Higgins has worked his way to the front rank of present-day jazz performers, as his fine new album demonstrates.....Weekend 14

Fifty years of the new: The Society for the Promotion of New Music celebrates its half-century this weekend with a little help from famous composers that it rejected in their younger days.....Weekend 14

Opera debut: That Donizetti's operatic setting of a well-known story — the six burghers of Calais — *should have had to wait 157 years* for its British premiere is incomprehensible.....Weekend 14

Weekend break: The face of the eternal city is constantly being retouched, Alan Copps discovered on a return visit to Rome..... Page 2

Farmer's diary: After much deliberation, Paul Heiney comes up with a thundering good name for "the 'effer"..... Page 3

Food and drink: The nation's favourite take-away meal is under assault again — prepare yourselves for "drive-thru" fish and chips..... Page 4

Wine: Where to go tomorrow for a free tasting of some great burgundies at bargain-basement prices..... Page 5

At your service: Ruth Gledhill found Lord Soper still in fighting oratory mood at the Hinde Street Methodist Church..... Page 7

Sporting life: Join Jenny Seagrove and some 35,000 others for this weekend's charity Swimathon around the country..... Page 10

Simon Jenkins

Sir Anthony Hopkins has just discovered that some Cardiff children had actually seen his appalling film, and he himself was appalled. If it is true that some successful actors are beginning to accept that film content can adversely influence audiences, then times are really on the turn..... Page 16

Jan Morris

English people often express their support for Welsh devolution with the coda "I believe every region *should have devolution — I'm a* great Wessex devolutionist myself." Grrrr is my response..... Page 16

Alexander Chancellor

New Yorkers are exultant about the nifty detective work that has led to the apprehension of a suspect on federal terrorism charges who may be the first person in New York to face a realistic chance of execution since 1961..... Page 16

LEADERS

The writer David Yallop goes in search of Carlos the Jackal, the world's most wanted man, in the BBC2 *Fine Cut* documentary *To the Ends of the Earth* (today, 7.45pm).....Weekend 16

Dirk Bogarde's novel *Voices in the Garden*, about a couple living in bored luxury in France, is brought to the screen (BBC2, tomorrow, 10pm).....Weekend 17

OPINION

Russia's hour of peril

Mr Clinton is right to lower the hurdles for aid to Russia in order to shift the balance of power the reformers' way. The West has a vital interest in Mr Yeltsin's continued will to fight for Russia's political and economic transformation. It must invest in his couragePage 17

Place for learning

John Patten's scheme for school-based teacher training is a well judged experiment. Innovation is needed if teachers are to have the right training for an increasingly demanding job. Neither education colleges nor schools should be afraid to see if their partnership could be more soundly based..... Page 17

Tree of knowledge

As if to expiate its role in the Fall of Man, an apple falling from a tree in a Lincolnshire garden in 1665 *set off a train* of thought which inspired a revolution in the human mind. That apple has as its audience a man whom many consider the greatest intellect who ever lived, Sir Isaac Newton..... Page 17

Should Britain have a Maastricht referendum? Readers make out the case..... Page 17

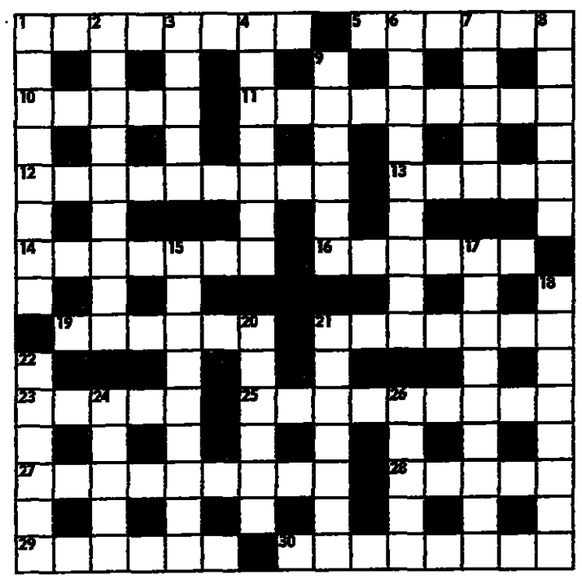
The police raid on the Davidians has been widely broadcast, which has hindered their action. Religion, *violence and media overkill have* thus combined to produce this American drama. *Le Monde*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,171

PARKER DUOFOLD

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....



ACROSS

1 Kid gives dollar to family (8).
5 Thanks to speaking French, Offa ruled here (6).
10 Regular gentleman's generous display (5).
11 The goal of a successful freedom movement (9).
12 Broke in cleaner (9).
13 City's claim to be human? (5).
14 Watches trouser-ends being altered in one place (7).
16 Go, discharged from cells (6).
19 Make fun of the church? What a jerk! (6).
21 Labour expense to capture Scots town in election (7).
23 A French girl is free of restraint (5).
25 Fidelity belied by Lady Chatterley? (9).
27 Criticise cards left after deal when cut by old clown (9).
28 Stop girl obtaining musical instrument (5).
29 Cut and ran (6).
30 About to agree to move house (8).

DOWN

1 The means by which old soldiers used to get stoned (8).
2 Graves may be opened by this (9).
3 Period charm (5).
4 Admission for painter and son (7).
6 It's an offence to use my car, beer-befuddled (9).
7 Pick a beauty product (5).
8 Tommy knocked head off flowers (6).
9 Type that's after Sally (6).
15 Complete fireplace after mid-winter (9).
17 Edible plant crushed by maniac (9).
18 Ground extra sharp blade (8).
20 Bully had a brother in Paris (6).
21 Atonement made when last character is expelled from pirates' lair (7).
22 Strange cat lost tail in brawl (6).
24 For sailor, soldier cut name into stick (5).
26 Applicant finally fit to see board (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,165

P	R	E	S	S	U	P	■	S	I	D	E	C	A	R
A	■	M	■	T	■	R	E	■	E	■	A	■	O	■
N	U	B	I	A	■	O	P	T	O	M	E	T	R	Y
O	■	E	■	S	■	G	■	O	■	I	■	E	■	A
P	E	R	C	H	E	R	O	N	■	J	U	R	A	L
L	■	D	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	D	■	■	■	T
Y	E	A	T	S	■	M	A	T	C	H	P	L	A	Y
■	■	Y	■	T	■	M	■	I	■	N	■	O	■	■
E	A	S	T	E	R	E	G	G	■	S	C	O	O	P
M	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	E	■	■	S	■	O	■
P	A	N	E	L	■	C	A	R	T	W	H	E	E	L
O	■	A	■	G	■	R	■	M	■	H	■	L	■	L
W	A	T	E	R	P	O	L	O	■	I	D	E	S	T
E	■	A	■	E	■	W	■	T	■	R	■	A	■	A
R	E	L	A	Y	E	D	■	H	A	L	I	F	A	X

Solution to Puzzle No 19,170

T	R	O	P	I	C	■	G	A	N	G	L	I	O	N
■	E	■	I	■	O	■	A	■	O	■	M	■	U	■
P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M	■	I	N	F	I	R	M
■	I	■	H	■	O	■	E	■	■	D	■	T	■	E
F	A	T	I	Q	U	E	S	■	M	O	H	A	I	R
■	N	■	E	■	E	■	E	■	L	■	B	■	A	■
■	C	■	S	A	R	A	T	O	G	A	■	L	■	T
S	E	C	T	■	O	■	A	■	O	■	C	E	D	E
Y	■	A	■	G	R	A	N	U	L	A	R	■	O	■
B	■	S	■	A	■	■	D	■	O	■	E	■	O	■
A	T	H	O	M	E	■	M	A	S	S	A	C	R	E
R	■	M	■	B	■	■	A	■	T	■	T	■	N	■
I	C	E	B	O	X	■	T	R	I	B	U	N	A	L
T	■	R	■	G	■	■	C	■	R	■	I	■	■	■
E	Y	E	T	E	E	T	H	■	K	N	E	E	L	S

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: E W Clark, Kingsley Avenue, Birkenshaw, Bradford; S Auckland, Marsh Lane, Shepley, Huddersfield; P Copple, Bowood Street, Liverpool; G T Hulme, Moss Lane, Sale, Cheshire; D Malcolm, Leigham Avenue, London.

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WEATHER

Much of Britain will be dry today, although drizzle will affect western Scotland, and hilly areas of western England and Wales. The morning will be cloudy, perhaps with fog patches in the south at first. Western areas will stay cloudy; eastern parts will brighten up, with parts to the lee of the Grampians sunniest. Mild for early March. Outlook: mainly dry tomorrow; on Monday, rain will spread east, followed by colder, showery weather.

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	11	52	s	Madrid	12	54	s
Alicante	16	61	s	Majorca	14	57	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Malaga	17	63	s
Algiers	15	59	c	Malta	14	57	s
Amst'dm	4	39	d	Melb'rne	17	63	c
Athens	15	59	f	Miami*	24	75	s
Bahrain	23	73	c	Milan	5	41	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Montreal*	-2	28	f
Barbados*	28	84	s	Moscow	-7	19	s
Barcelna	12	54	s	Munich	-3	27	sn
Beirut	12	54	r	Naples	5	41	f
Belgrade	-3	27	sn	N Delhi	22	72	s
Berlin	0	32	c	N York*	3	37	r
Bermuda*	21	70	f	Nice	11	52	f
Biarritz	6	43	s	Oslo	4	39	s
Borde'x	7	45	s	Paris	4	39	c
Brussels	4	39	f	Peking	9	48	f
Budapest	-1	30	s	Perth	31	88	s
B Aires*	23	73	c	Prague	-2	28	s
Cairo	20	68	f	Reykjavik	4	39	c
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Rhodes	13	55	c
Chicago*	2	36	f	Rio de J	31	88	f
Ch'church	22	72	f	Riyadh	35	95	s
Cologne	3	37	c	Rome	6	43	s
C'phagn	1	34	sl	Salzburg	-3	27	f
Corfu	9	48	f	S Fr'sco*	14	57	s
Dublin	10	50	c	Santiago*	24	75	s
Dubrovnik	4	39	c	S Paulo*	23	73	c
Faro	15	59	f	Seoul	11	52	f
Florence	4	39	s	Sing'por	30	86	s
Frankfurt	2	36	c	St'kholm	-1	30	sn
Funchal	17	63	s	Strasb'rg	3	37	c
Geneva	1	34	s	Sydney	21	70	c
Gibraltar	11	52	r	Tangier	16	61	f
Helsinki	-2	28	sn	Tel Aviv	14	57	c
Innsbrck	1	34	f	Tenerife	19	66	f
Istanbul	2	36	f	Tokyo	14	57	s
Jeddah	31	88	f	Toronto*	1	34	c
Jo'burg*	23	73	f	Tunis	14	57	c
Karachi	31	88	s	Valencia	13	55	f
L Palmas	20	68	f	Vanc'ver*	10	50	r
La Toquet	4	39	f	Venice	4	39	s
Lisbon	15	59	f	Vienna	-3	27	f
Locarno	7	45	s	Warsaw	-4	25	s
London	6	43	c	Washton*	4	39	r
L Angels*	18	64	s	Wellton	18	64	f
Luxembg	1	34	c	Zurich	0	32	s
Lucor	24	75	s				

* denotes figures are latest available

Sunrise

London 5.50 am to 6.35 am
Bristol 5.58 am to 6.46 am
Edinburgh 5.28 am to 6.22 am
Manchester 5.56 am to 6.45 am
Penzance 6.12 am to 6.55 am

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.35 am — Sun sets: 5.50 pm
Moon sets 5.11 am — Moon rises 3.40 pm

Full moon March 8

London 5.51 pm to 6.33 am
Bristol 6.01 pm to 6.43 am
Edinburgh 6.00 pm to 6.49 am
Manchester 5.58 pm to 6.43 am
Penzance 6.14 pm to 6.53 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.33 am — Sun sets: 5.51 pm
Moon rises 5.36 am — Moon sets 5.07 pm

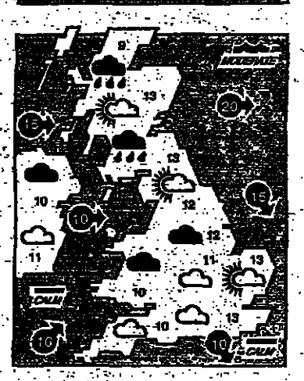
Full Moon tomorrow

Rainfall

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.2	0.05	6	43	rain
Anglesey	2.1	0.03	6	43	bright
Aviemore	-	0.14	3	37	snow
Belfast	3.4	-	6	43	bright
Birmingham	1.4	-	4	39	bright
Bognor Regis	5.9	-	5	41	bright
Bournemouth	9.0	-	6	43	sunny
Bristol	4.5	-	6	43	sunny
Buxton	1.2	-	2	36	cloudy
Cardiff	5.5	-	5	41	sunny
Clacton	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Cromer	0.1	-	4	39	cloudy
Edinburgh	0.7	0.03	4	39	rain
Eskdalemuir	3.4	-	3	37	snow
Exmouth	8.8	-	5	41	sunny
Falmouth	7.0	-	7	45	sunny
Folkestone	0.5	-	4	39	cloudy
Glasgow	2.0	0.01	5	41	rain
Guernsey	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Hastings	1.2	-	4	39	cloudy
Hunstanton	1.9	-	5	41	cloudy
Jersey	8.2	-	7	45	sunny
Kinlose	-	0.03	7	45	rain
Leeds	1.9	-	6	43	cloudy
Lerwick	-	0.21	7	45	rain
Liverpool	0.8	-	5	41	cloudy
London	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Lowestoft	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Manchester	1.4	-	5	41	bright
Margate	X	-	4	39	dull
Minehead	3.6	-	5	41	sunny
Morecambe	3.1	-	6	43	bright
Newcastle	3.1	-	5	41	sunny
Newquay	8.4	-	6	43	sunny
Nottingham	0.2	-	4	39	cloudy
Penzance	7.2	-	7	45	sunny
Plymouth	7.5	-	6	43	sunny
Poole	9.1	-	6	43	sunny
Prestwick	1.2	0.01	5	41	rain
Sandown	4.8	-	5	41	bright
Saunton Snd	8.8	-	7	45	sunny
Scarborough	3.2	-	5	41	sunny
Scilly Isles	7.4	-	7	45	sunny
Shanklin	6.2	-	5	41	sunny
Southsea	6.8	-	6	43	sunny
Stornoway	-	0.03	10	50	drizzle
Swanage	8.1	-	5	41	sunny
Teignmouth	8.2	-	5	41	sunny
Tenby	8.0	-	6	43	sunny
Tiree	-	0.16	8	46	rain
Torquay	7.4	-	7	45	sunny
Weymouth	8.8	-	6	43	sunny
Wick	-	0.09	6	43	rain
Worthing	0.3	-	5	41	cloudy

X denotes Not Available





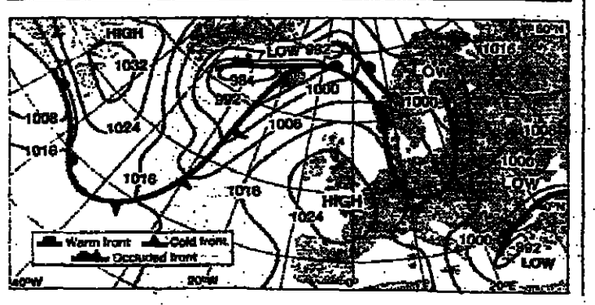
Information supplied by Met Office

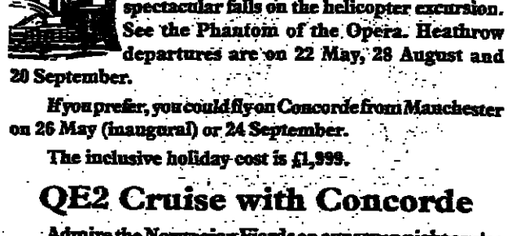
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Bank Rates

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.15	1.95
Austria Sch	17.90	16.40
Belgium Fr	52.65	48.25
Canada $	1.925	1.765
Denmark Kr	9.86	9.06
Finland Mrk	9.29	8.52
France Fr	8.66	7.96
Germany Dm	2.55	2.35
Hong Kong $	11.87	10.87
Ireland Pt	1.04	0.96
Italy Lira	2385.00	2220.00
Japan Yen	186.00	169.00
Netherlands Gld	2.87	2.64
Norway Kr	10.80	10.00
Portugal Esc	232.25	215.25
South Africa Rd	5.80	5.30
Spain Pta	177.50	164.50
Sweden Kr	11.79	10.99
Switzerland Fr	2.36	2.19
Turkey Lira	14200.0	13200.0
USA $	1.54	1.415

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.





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PROFILE 22

The finance chief of Courtaulds Textiles breaks the mould



CRICKET 36

Graeme Hick's tour de force against India



RUGBY 39

Stuart Barnes tries belated tilt at glory

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THE TIMES 2

SATURDAY MARCH 6 1993

Homes market shows signs of picking up

By Carl Mortished

The housing industry is hoping that the Chancellor will do nothing in the Budget to upset the fragile recovery indicated by home starts, sales and mortgage applications

THE housing market is at last showing signs of pulling out of the slump, with starts on new homes rising, builders reporting reservations on homes under construction up by a third and estate agents saying they have enjoyed their best month for a year.

Mortgage providers also record a sharp increase in applications since Christmas. But while all areas of the housing industry agree that signs of fragile recovery are there, they could be set back if there is bad news in the Budget.

Environment department statistics indicate a recovery in housing starts over the three months to January, bringing the quarter's total to 33,400. The improvement over the previous quarter was 4 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis. The January total of 12,800 starts was the best since last summer. However, there is still leeway to make up the depressed levels seen over the past 12 months. Starts in the previous November to January quarter were 34,900. Completions are down 6 per cent, reflecting the low level of activity in 1992.

Builders are confident that recovery is on the way. Joe Dwyer, chief executive of Wimpey, reckons that we are seeing a consolidation of a strong trend with steady growth in sales in the last month. "Demand is coming back and the affordability message is coming through. Last week was our best week for sales since 1990," he said.

Alfred McAlpine claims it is experiencing a similar trend with reservations 30 per cent up on the same period in 1992, and Berkeley Group, the upmarket builder of executive homes, says sales reservations have increased since the beginning of the year.

David Gilchrist, general manager of Halifax Building Society, says the key factor supporting the new confidence is affordability. "Mortgage repayments as a percentage of income have come down to 15 per cent of average total income compared with 25 per cent at the peak of the boom."

He said figures from the National Housebuilding Council's *Ability to Buy Index* confirm that house buyers are in the strongest position since 1975. The Halifax owns the largest estate agency chain in Britain and Mr Gilchrist says activity is improving, though from a very low base. Applications for mortgages have picked up strongly and are now running at a level equivalent to February 1992, after the sharp fall towards the end of last year. New instructions from vendors are also well up.

Roger Hickland, business development director at Royal Life Estates which has more than 500 estate agents, agrees that activity is picking up with a remarkable recovery from the poor figures at the end of last year. At Royal Life, February was even a slight improvement on the strong period in February 1992. Mr Hickland says the recovery shows strong demand on the south coast and in the North West but less promising activity in London and the Thames Valley.

He said: "The market is not just first-time buyers. There has been a migration out of rental property. People have been sitting out the recession in rented accommodation and are now moving back in."

Royal Life believes the recovery is real but fragile and like the rest of the industry fears that the government could kill it off by tinkering with mortgage tax relief. "It's my hope that the Chancellor does nothing. Recovery may be on the way, special measures are unnecessary. We are simply asking that the budget does nothing to destroy confidence," Mr Hickland said.



Mark squeezed: Günter Rexrodt, Germany's minister of the economy, addressing the Bundestag yesterday

German rate cut boosts sterling

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

STERLING soared and shares closed at a record high after confirmation yesterday that German interest rates are heading downwards.

The pound closed more than 3 pfennigs higher against the mark, which weakened after the Bundesbank announced that it would cut the rate at which it lends to commercial banks from 8.49 to 8.25 per cent.

The cut in the repurchase rate revived speculation in financial markets that the German move paves the way for lower base rates. But this was denied by British government officials. Sterling closed at DM2.4090, compared with Thursday's close of DM2.3756, and its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies rose to 77.9, from 77.3 on Thursday.

On the equity market, the FT-SE 100 index closed 17.3 points higher at an all-time high of 2,922.1; UK government bond prices moved ahead, too.

Downing Street moved swiftly to discourage speculation that a cut in official German interest rates before the end of the month would lead to another cut in UK base lending rates. An official said the cut in German rates was not seen as a window of opportunity for the government to cut rates from 6 per cent.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has joined Bank of England officials recently in emphasising the current view that 6 per cent base rates are consistent with sustainable recovery. Both he and the Bank have made several remarks recently designed to support sterling, which has climbed 7 pfennigs in the past week. The reaction of shares and gilts, however, suggests that there are more than lingering hopes in the financial markets that the government could still cut interest rates around Budget day, on March 16, or shortly afterwards.



The Bundesbank's move clearly signals a cut in the German discount and lombard rates at the central bank's next policy-making council meeting, on March 18. The fact that it chose to cut its repurchase ("repo") rate the day after a council meeting suggests that there may have been a split of opinion. The central directorate has control over the repo rate, while official interest rate movements require the support of regional bank representatives.

Johann Wilhelm Gaddum, a Bundesbank board member, said the repo rate cut was clearly a signal for interest rates but added that the Bundesbank wanted to be even more certain of inflation and money supply developments before cutting official rates.

The weakness of the German economy was underscored by news that January wholesale sales in western Germany had fallen by 12 per cent in real terms, compared with a year earlier.

Sluggish economic statistics from Germany contrasted with encouraging figures from America, where non-farm payrolls increased by 365,000 in February, about twice what economists had been expecting. Apparent lack of job creation, despite recovery, has been an important factor holding back consumer confidence in the US, igniting fears that the recovery may rest on weak foundations.

The dollar soared on the news, closing at DM1.6725 in London, compared with DM1.6335 on Thursday.

US jobs, page 23
Porsche reverse, page 23

Cookson calls for £186m to cut debt and lift growth

By Martin Waller

RISING debt that is cramping the opportunities for expansion has sent Cookson Group, the industrial materials company, to shareholders for a £185.6 million cash call.

Cookson is offering one new share for every four held at 170p, while admitting that borrowings rose by £125 million to disappointing levels during last year to stand at £341 million, including £77 million of convertible preference shares at the end of 1992.

Robert Malpas, chairman, said the money would go to fund organic growth, make "selective and complementary acquisitions" and pay off some of those debts. Cookson has buttressed the shares issue with the announcement of pre-tax profits of £72.5 million in the year to end-December, a turnround from a loss of £7.9 million last time restated according to the latest FRS3 accounting standard.

A final dividend of 3p makes a total maintained at 6p. The higher borrowings came after a £28 million rise in working capital employed within the group, mainly because of a sharp upturn in sales in the fourth quarter, a £55 million bill for an acquisition and a £31 million rise after foreign exchange movements.



Malpas: acquisitions

Cookson had run out of headroom with which to respond to acquisition opportunities, Mr Malpas said. The company is speaking to a number of potential purchases and could spend as much as £70 million this year, balanced by disposals that could raise approaching £50 million.

The shares dropped 14p to 199p on news of the rights issue. But Matthew Sutherland, analyst at NatWest Securities, thought the market would be broadly supportive, given that Cookson would benefit almost immediately from any economic upturn.

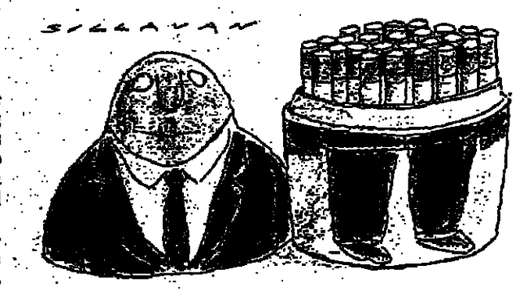
He said: "The trading picture is good. They are early in the economic cycle and geographically in the right place. The one constraint was going to be 70 per cent gearing, and with the upturn beginning, you have got to have the flexibility to expand."

Cookson believes that without the shares issue, available cash flow could take until 1995 or 1996 to bring the gearing back to the 40 per cent level it regards as acceptable.

Mr Malpas said signs of an increase in economic activity in America last year were continuing, but trading in Britain and the rest of the world remained flat.

Rothmans lights up in St Petersburg

By Colin Narbrough
World Trade Correspondent



The steady advance in the West of the anti-smoking lobby has driven Rothmans International, the tobacco group, eastwards into Russia in search of consumers still free to chain-smoke.

Rothmans, based in London but controlled by the South African Rupert family, has signed a joint venture deal with Nevo Tobacco, a privatised employee-buyout company in St Petersburg. Under the terms of the agreement, Rothmans will invest £55 million in a new cigarette plant.

Production, expected to start in about two and a half years, is targeted to reach 10 billion cigarettes a year, with the capability for higher output if needed. Given that the Russian cigarette market is estimated at an annual 180-190 billion, or twice that of Britain, Rothmans' plans do not seem over-ambitious.

The investment, which gives Rothmans 75 per cent and management control of the venture, is regarded as a strategic project rather than a deal that must show rapid returns. Although companies can remit royalties and dividends from President Yeltsin's Russia, the harsh political and economic realities suggest that little cash will flow on to Rothmans' books for some time.

Reynolds, Rothmans' American rival, has already advanced into post-Soviet Russia. George Walker, the ex-boxer ousted by the banks from the chairmanship of his Brent Walker leisure empire, has also responded to the Russians' insatiable appetite for western-style cigarettes with a Moscow venture.

This week, Philip Morris, the American food and tobacco group, announced that it had paid $312 million to secure a 73.6 per cent stake in the Czech Republic's cigarette-making monopoly, Tabak Kutná Hora.

Jan du Plessis, finance director at Rothmans, said the new St Petersburg plant would initially be supplied with Virginia tobacco and other raw materials from the west; that would be supplanted by Russian-grown tobacco later.

De Beers, the South African company that controls about 80 per cent of the world diamond market, is engaged in a $1 billion co-operation pact with the Russian diamond industry.

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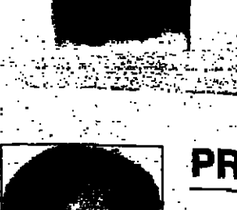
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WEEKEND MONEY

NO SECRETS

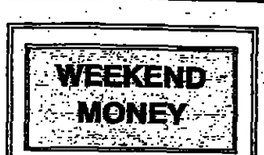


Barclaycard is to give all its customer records to credit reference agencies saying it does not conflict with confidentiality
Page 27

SELF-HELP

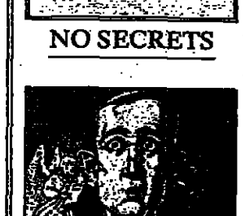
Directors of one-man companies have saved themselves thousands of pounds in tax and mortgage repayments
Page 25

WILL POWER



Ignoring advice to make a will and plan for inheritance tax will help only the Chancellor
Page 26

OPT IN



People in their forties who have opted out of the state pension scheme should opt back in after April
Page 31

PEN PLAN



Readers sickened by losses through commissions on insurance plans should write to their MPs
Letters, page 32

THE POUND

US $ ..... 1.4490 (-0.0047)
German mark..2.4090 (+0.0334)
Exchange index..... 77.9 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 ..... 2922.1 (+17.3)
Dow Jones ..3413.23 (+14.32)*
Nikkei Arge 16817.70 (+58.09)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base..... 6%
3-month Interbank..... 6-5⁷/₁₆%
US Federal Funds 3¹/₁₆%*
3-month Treas Bills 3.00-2.99%*
Long Bond..... 6.79%*

CURRENCIES

New York:	London:
£:$ 1.4458*	£:$ 1.4470
$:DM .1.6670*	£:DM ...2.4201
$:SWfr.1.5459*	£:SWfr...2.2386
$:Fr ...5.6550*	£:Fr 8.1395
$:Yen .117.71*	£:Yen ...170.23
£:SDR ..1.0489	£:ECU ..1.2340

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 329.70 ..... PM 329.75
Close 329.60-330.10
New York:
Comex 330.05-330.55*

RETAIL PRICES

RPI.....137.9 January (1.7%)
* Denotes midday trading price

BUSINESS PROFILE: **Pippa Wicks**

When modesty and success add up

Courtaulds Textiles' new finance chief is young, female and unqualified, writes **George Sivell**

Finance directors of public companies are 40 or 50 something, wear glasses, have thinning grey or sandy hair and wear baggy trousers or C&A suits. They are nearly always male, and are nearly always qualified in accountancy.

This week, Courtaulds Textiles, fresh and vibrant from its demerger from Courtaulds three years ago, appointed Pippa Wicks, 30, as finance director. Martin Taylor, the chief executive who is soon to become chairman as well, said he had appointed Ms Wicks because she was female, young, was not qualified and had not been with the company very long, an unlikely list of requirements to control the finances of one of Europe's largest textiles groups.

Ms Wicks has a degree in zoology from Oxford and, like her father, might have ended up working for ICI had she not decided to go into management consultancy and abandon her scientific training. It was a difficult decision.

"With a science degree I was not frightened of numbers, just the concepts," she says, adding that being a management consultant is about being able to ask the silly questions.

This experience translates well to the forthcoming job. "I have lots of silly questions to ask. I know people will keep answering them, that is the kind of place Courtaulds Textiles is." That confidence is based on seven years of training as a management consultant at Bain & Company, which involved retail, automotive, building and construction clients.

"I am very glad I have support around me, the finance function is very well developed here. I will need to rely on experts an awful lot. But I hope I can bring something to the job as well."

Ms Wicks describes the job as "a fabulous opportunity, beyond my wildest dreams and ambitions". One suspects, however, that her appointment is more a means than an end. Thinking ahead already, she says: "I doubt if I will be finance director for ever." The next move is likely to be in one of Courtaulds Textiles operating companies, away from the head office. "I would very much like to do that." The previous incumbent, Andrew Harrison, was also a Bain consultant and has now reached the ripe old age of 35. He moves to home furnishings and UK branded products.

But Ms Wicks must feel more at home than most women in a top post in a public company. Asked about her family background she points out that her father was a senior manager at ICI and is now deputy director general of the National Farmers' Union. "People ask what my father does. They never ask what my mother does. She has a very active career. She is a full-time magistrate."

This background has produced clear and decisive views on the emergence of women in senior posts. "I don't think about someone's ability to do a job from the point of view of being male or female. It is a secondary issue. It is super that we are seeing more and more people not worrying about gender, just about the ability to do a job, and what a particular individual can bring to it."

The meritocratic approach spreads beyond questions of gender. "It goes across religious and class distinctions, across any possible difference between one person and any other person. The issue is about what a person can bring to a job."

ALAN WELLER



Beyond her wildest dreams: Pippa Wicks says that with a science degree she is not frightened of numbers

This applies also to age. "At the end of the day, it is all about people who can make as good a business decision as possible. If they are young, and fresh faced and bring fresh thinking that is fine."

But for someone who has just turned 30, Ms Wicks has remarkable experience at evaluating fresh businesses. "You need to absorb the flavour of the culture, allow a bit of time for osmosis to occur. The first thing to do is listen very hard, then to see patterns which lead to being able to identify problems."

Intuition has obviously played a big part in Ms Wicks's ascent to the top. She says the decision to join Courtaulds Textiles was ultimately "based on chemistry". "I looked for companies I thought exciting" she adds, but is well aware of "coming to an industry I had no consultation experience of". But she finds Courtaulds Textiles a "terribly flexible and encouraging environment". Asked if that is departing chairman Sir Christopher's Hogg's influence spreading down, she replies: "I am sure it is."

On arrival at Courtaulds Textiles in 1991 she became corporate development manager. Here the rapid learning technique so essential to management consultants went into overdrive as she travelled around Courtaulds branded clothing, own-label clothing, fabrics, home furnishings and spinning businesses.

But in what is probably a tribute to the workload a Bain consultant shifts, Ms Wicks, who is married, says she "now has a lot of spare time, more time than at Bain". It is spent largely on sports and the theatre.

World travel is also high on the agenda, but the first casualty of her promotion will be a long-awaited trip to China. It would have interrupted production of Courtaulds Textiles half-year results, due in August. But a two- or three-week trip to Vietnam this year is on the cards, to follow up recent sorties in South East Asia, notably Thailand.

A luxury package tour? Not a bit of it. "I like to sit at a bus stop and chat to the local people," a habit developed during a trip to India. Travel broadens the mind but to a Bain consultant it has added attractions. "It is helpful to visualise the infrastructure of big textiles markets, such as those in South East Asia, in addition to wandering around the art galleries."

According to a recent survey by *Crawfords Directory of City Connections*, Ms Wicks will become the twelfth female finance director of a British public company. There are 88 female company secretaries, of whom the best known is Yve Newbold at Hanson. But women fare less well in taking top jobs in the boardroom. Despite the efforts of Opportunity 2000 to give women equal chances in the workplace, only 0.54 per cent of main board public company directorships are held by women. They include Anita Roddick at Body Shop, Bridget Towle at Towles, the knitwear manufacturer, Barbara-Ann Maxwell at Tamaris, Michelle Kavanagh at Power Corporation, Aleksandra Clayton at Alexanders Holdings, Ruth Henderson at Alexon and Ann Iverson at Storehouse.

The two highest-profile female directors are Rosemary Thorne, 41, the finance director at J. Sainsbury, and Kathy O'Donovan, who, at 34, became finance director of BTR, one of Britain's largest engineers. They both have much in common with Ms Wicks — a disarming degree of modesty about being successful career women.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

American steel duties action worries EC

THE European Community admitted that it was worried after America's International Trade Commission confirmed punitive duties on hot-rolled lead and bismuth carbon steel imports from France, Germany and Britain. A spokesman for the EC commission said that it had not decided how to respond to the move. Imports of products affected by the ruling, which will also hit Brazil, totalled $90.8 million in 1991, according to the latest data available. French products will face 87.96 per cent duties, German 102.33 per cent, and British 38.51 per cent.

The International Trade Commission said it had been proved that American industry was damaged by the imports from Europe. The anti-dumping measures are in response to claims from American industry that foreign competitors sell goods in the United States more cheaply than in their home markets. The duties were to balance state subsidies paid to foreign producers.

Receiver at Donnan

S&R DONNAN Seafoods Ltd of Whitehaven, Cumbria, yesterday called in the receiver, putting 130 jobs at risk. The company, which has processed scampi and fish products in the town for 30 years, is to be advertised for sale as a going concern. Gary Blackburn, the accountant now running Donnan, said: "The company will continue to trade and will be advertised for sale next week. I hope that the jobs of the staff here will all be secured when a buyer has been found."

Crédit Suisse inches up

ROBERT Jeker, Crédit Suisse chief executive, said the banking group's 1.1 per cent profit increase in 1992 had been "thoroughly satisfactory". He added that, despite a difficult economic climate, return on equity remained steady at 1991's 9.8 per cent. Crédit Suisse said it had earned a group net profit of 857 million Swiss francs (£400 million) after 848 million francs in 1991. Foreign operations generated 35 per cent of income, against 34 per cent in 1991.

Rail link 'tragicomedy'

ATTEMPTS to secure a high-speed rail link for the Channel tunnel were like "a tragicomedy in umpteen acts", Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's chief executive, said. In a wide-ranging attack on the government, Sir Alastair spoke of the Treasury "studying its own entrails for inspiration" over the route. He said that after the route decision was taken by John MacGregor, transport secretary, the Treasury would still have to assemble public-private financing package.

BDM doubles profit

BOLT-ON acquisitions are sought by British Data Management, which says results are beginning to show the benefits of new contracts and previous acquisitions. Pre-tax profit doubled to £1.6 million in the six months to end-December from £780,000. An interim dividend of 1.5p will be paid. In the previous year it was passed. The improvement was achieved despite a more modest rise in turnover from £6.2 million to £7 million and growing pressures on pricing.

Britton sustains loss

TRANSFORMING Firstland, an oil and gas producer, into Britton, a packaging group, produced a pre-tax loss of £2.3 million in the calendar year 1992. The loss on the disposal of discontinued activities was £2.1 million. There is a dividend of 0.3p. In 1991 there was a loss of £743,000 and no dividend but comparisons are misleading because of changes in the company. The loss per share grew from 3.34p to 5.15p. Interest paid was cut from £137,000 to £28,000.

Borthwicks sells assets

BORTHWICKS, the food group that has been concentrating on flavourings, has sold the bakery assets of its Burton Son & Sanders unit to Unilever for £1.3 million in cash. Unilever also takes on £1.8 million in debt and lease commitments and will honour an agreement to manufacture products for Van Den Bergh Professional Foods until later this year at Burton's factory at Ipswich. Borthwicks has been selling the poorly performing food processing operations.

Shopping centre boost for Peel

BY CARL MORTISHED

DUMPLINGTON is set to become the shopping Mecca of the North West, according to Manchester Ship Canal, the ports and property group. MSC obtained planning permission for Trafford Centre, a 1 million sq ft shopping centre on a 300-acre site near Manchester.

Robert Hough, MSC chairman, said the £200 million scheme would provide jobs for 6,000 people when completed and for thousands more during its construction, expected to start in two years' time. "It will be an enormous catalyst for economic growth in the region" he said.

Shares in Peel Holdings, the property group that owns 80 per cent of MSC, rose by 31p to 200p on the news. According to Mr Hough, shareholders stand to benefit from a £35 million uplift when the centre is developed. The site, which was acquired seven years ago, is currently in the books at a 1990 valuation of £15 million.

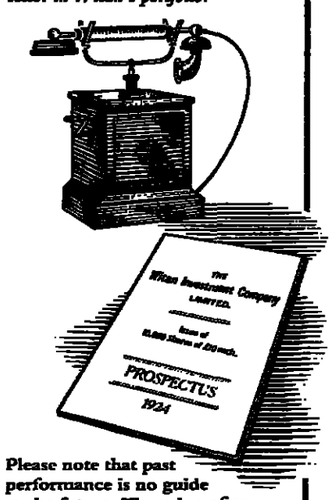
Planning permission for the Dumplington site was opposed by P&O, which owns the Arndale shopping centre in Manchester. MSC believes Trafford Centre will attract shoppers from all over the North West. Final approval was obtained when the Department of Transport decided that minor improvements to access roads from the M63 motorway would be sufficient to cope with extra traffic generated by the centre.

According to Mr Hough, the planning regime is tightening and the Trafford Centre may be the last big shopping centre built in Britain for some time.

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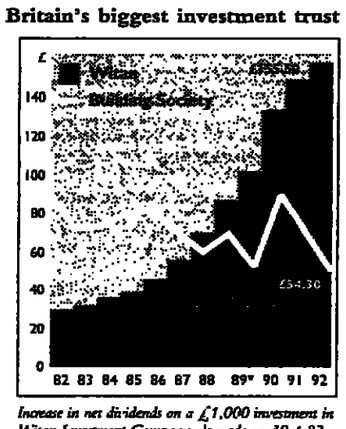


Please note that past performance is no guide to the future. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up. Changes in exchange rates between currencies may also cause the value of shares to diminish or increase. Taxes relating to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend upon the circumstances of the investor. Figures for Witan's performance are based on net asset values at 27.7.24 and 1.1.93, assuming net income reinvested. The source of 10 year statistics is the AITC share price total return assuming reinvestment of net income.

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*Increase in net dividends on a £1,000 investment in Witan Investment Company plc made on 30.4.82 to 31.12.92 compared with interest paid on £1,000 in a higher rate building society deposit account. *Extra payment due to change of Witan's year end. Source: Datastream & Micropal.*

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Porsche poised to stay in reverse with record loss

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

■ The German luxury car company pins hopes on a sales boost from new models in the second half, certain that wealthy customers can be lured into the market

PORSCHE, the German high-performance car maker, whose products were as essential to the yuppy image as the mobile phone and the designer suit, is still losing ground in its drive to restore the power-profits it once earned. The record loss of nearly DM66 million incurred last year is about to be overtaken.

Under close scrutiny from Germany's volume car companies, such as Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz, which are widening their product range, Porsche will have to speed up if it wants to retain its independence.

There has been much speculation that Ferdinand Piëch, abrasive new management board chairman at VW, Europe's biggest carmaker, will move in on Porsche, one of the few sportscar firms to retain its independence, as he is a member of one of the two related clans (the other is the Porsche family) who control the company. For years, the clans have fought over what direction Porsche cars should take.

Herr Piëch this week told VW workers that the German motor industry faces the sharpest decline since the second world war. If he brought Porsche into the VW fold it would be a sort of homecoming, since it was a member of the Porsche family who designed the orginal VW "people's car" for Hitler.

The Porsche group, based in Stuttgart, yesterday published interim figures showing that its financial performance has reversed. In the first half of the year to end-July, the group incurred a net loss of DM120 million, compared to a tiny profit in the same period in 1991.

With Germany and much of Europe in recession, and America in recovery, sales of costly cars slumped to DM820 million (DM1.25 billion). Deliveries fell 39 per cent to 6,620.

Germany's fast-car enthusiasts are clearly pulling in their horns. The export share of Porsche sales in the first six months was 2.7 per cent up at 56.1 per cent. Porsche has cut back on investment and shed more jobs. But, for all the trimming and reduced output, the group forecasts losses this year bigger than last, despite some recovery in sales in America.



Company hopes are invested in new models giving sales a boost in the second half. Like many motor industry analysts, Porsche remains convinced that people with money do not really go away. The new 911 Turbo, the 911 Speedster and an anniversary 911 model are the lures.

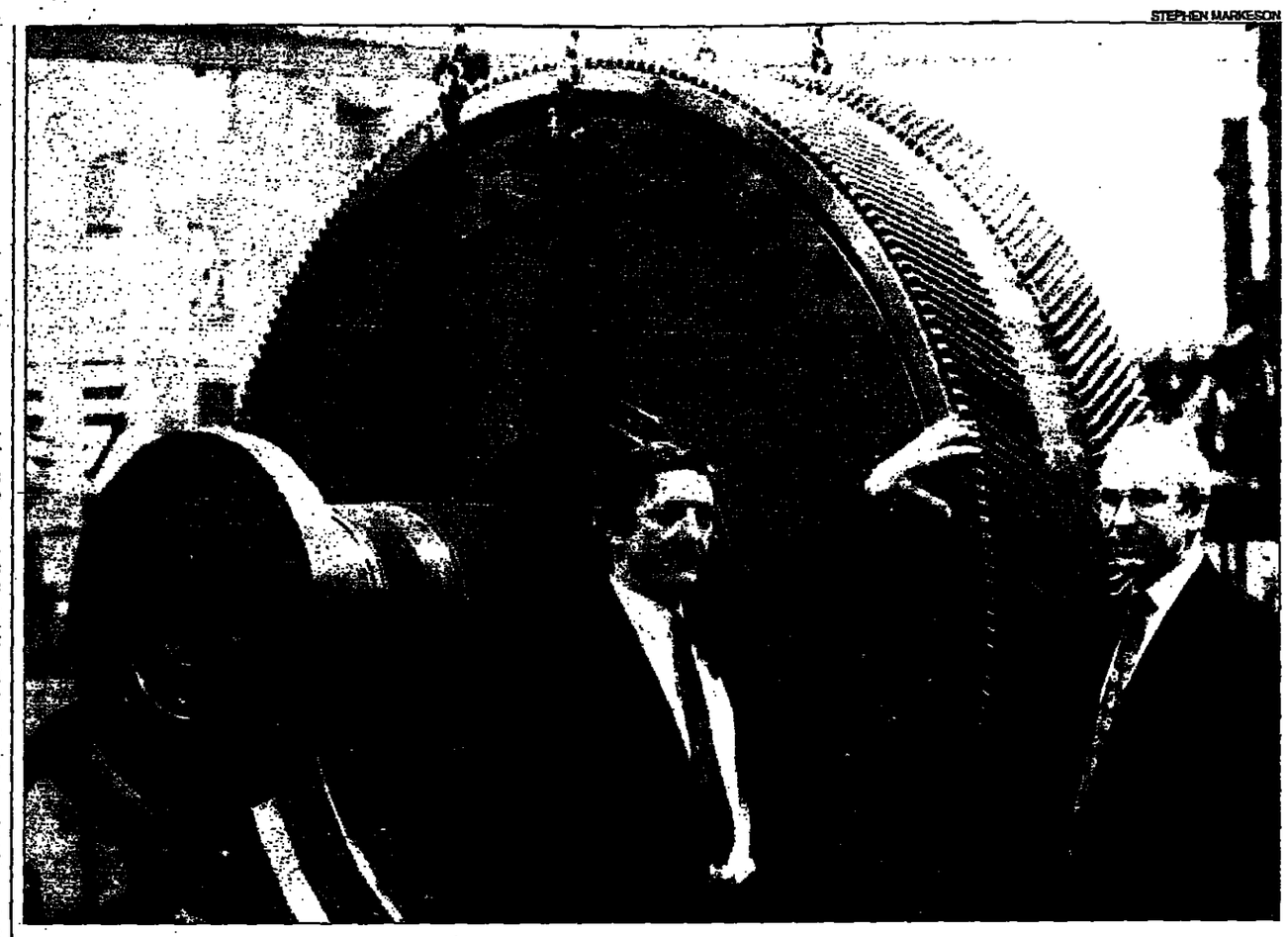
Wendelin Wiedeking, the management board chairman, put on a brave face before the Porsche annual meeting.

"Strategically, we are equipping ourselves for the next upswing in the worldwide car cycle, which will begin in 1994-5," he said.

Until then, however, Herr Wiedeking foresees Porsche cars becoming a rarer commodity. Production is expected to drop to between 15,000 and 17,000 this year from 23,060 last, taking revenue below the DM2 billion level.

The scale of the wider problem facing the German car industry was highlighted in the latest figures for January. Incoming orders were 1 per cent up on December, but a full 23.1 per cent down on January last year. This reflected a 35 per cent decline in domestic orders.

STEPHEN MARKESON



Moving into gear: Christopher Brown, left, and Christopher Cook, joint chief executives of David Brown, once one of the best-known engineering names in Britain, are busy preparing for the company's stock market debut in four to six weeks' time. The company has unveiled a 12 per cent pre-tax profits increase to £9.3 million for the financial year to January 29. Mr Brown and Mr Cook, photographed at Brown's engineering works in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, were part of the management team that took over the company in the June 1990 refinancing.

They said that strong cash flow last year had reduced borrowings by £3.2 million, representing gearing of 28 per cent, even after £3.8 million was invested in new businesses. The company will have a market capitalisation of more than £70 million once it is floated. The board said that despite the hiatus in spending on military hardware in the first half of the current year, the benefits of recent business developments, reinforced by tentative signs of recovery in the economy, had positioned the group well for continued progress.

Brown was founded in 1860 and as a private company once owned Aston Martin Lagonda and Vosper Thornycroft.

Brokers still want second market

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

INVESTORS and stockbrokers want a market for trading shares in smaller companies, even though they accept that the existing Unlisted Securities Market will have to go.

Nigel Atkinson, head of listings at the Stock Exchange, said widely differing plans had been put forward by 60 organisations after the exchange called for comments on its proposal to close the USM.

A final decision on the future of the USM is expected within the next few weeks.

Most suggestions received stressed the need for a second market, although some proposals were aimed at sophisticated investors. Suggestions included relaxing rules on past financial results and the percentage of shares that must be in public hands.

Mr Atkinson said: "We will be formally responding in the next few weeks. We are receptive to the need for a second market and we want to actively participate in the debate. If a viable consensus can be achieved, the exchange will give every consideration to the need for a second market and the role it could play in the operation of that market."

About half the responses are believed to have come from venture capitalists, a main source of funds for new and growing businesses. Most respondents accepted that the USM no longer provided a distinct market, but many pointed out that smaller companies needed special access to financing. The implementation of European Community Directives means that the Official List, with some 1,000 companies under £50 million in market capitalisation, now has essentially the same entry criteria as those applicable to the USM.

Union Discount forced to sell its market-maker

BY PATRICIA TEHAN AND PHILIP PANGALOS

UNION Discount, the troubled City discount house, is to unveil its delayed results for 1992 next week, along with the sale of Winterflood Securities, its market-making arm.

Close Brothers, the City merchant bank, is believed to be the frontrunner to buy Winterflood, at a price estimated at about £15 million.

Union's shares tumbled 19p, to 84p, as the firm revealed that it had called off merger talks, begun last month, and was considering an offer for Winterflood.

George Blunden, who was brought in as chief executive last June to sort the company out, is expected to unveil a second year of losses. Smith New Court forecasts a pre-tax loss of £14.2 million, down from £23.6 million in 1991, and expects the dividend to be axed. Mr Blunden refused to comment on speculation about the potential buyer for Winterflood. But he said: "If we make the sale, I am confident that we can go forward as an independent financial group."

There has been speculation that losses from Union's disastrous diversification into leasing and property lending in the mid-1980s could force the company under.

Martin Green, of Smith New Court, said he expected Union to cut back its leasing activities and concentrate on its core business.

He thought a £15 million price tag for Winterflood sounded low, given the business's ability to generate profits.



Brought in as trouble-shooter: George Blunden

Amex plans to sell First Data shares

American Express is raising up to $1.2 billion through the sale of up to 35.2 million shares in First Data Corp, reducing its holding to between 22 and 24.9 per cent.

The amount of ownership will depend on whether underwriters exercise the 3.2 million share over-allotment option being granted to them of the planned offering of 32 million First Data shares now held by American Express.

First Data also said that it plans an offering of $150 to $200 million of seven-to-ten year senior notes. American Express said that it intends to use the sale proceeds for general corporate purposes.

Water supplier flows free

Bristol Waterworks, one of the biggest quoted specialist water suppliers, has consolidated its independence. Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumez, the French group, has sold its entire 17.5 per cent stake through an £8 million placing among institutional investors by Cazenove at 830p.

Bristol shares gained 5p to 875p. Lyonnaise, which owns water supply companies in East Anglia and the North East, recently sold its stake in Anglian Water, the privatised water and sewerage group.

Short shifts

Bayer AG, the chemical group, is to put 3,000 workers from its German workforce of 57,000 on short shifts. Citing the weak economy, Bayer said that it was the first time it had shortened shifts in more than ten years.

Profits fall

National Counties Building Society has reported a 9 per cent fall in its pre-tax profit to £7.3 million. Its assets rose 5 per cent to £356 million and its reserves ended the year at £61.6 million.

BCCI creditors' committee lacks creditors

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ONLY three of the 150,000 creditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International have put forward nominations for places on a new creditors' committee, despite the public outcry at the time of the bank's £10 billion collapse in 1991.

The lack of interest has become a real concern to Christopher Morris, the joint liquidator. Mr Morris needs nominations for the five places on the committee by March 17, before the first creditors' meeting at the end of May.

The new committee will replace an informal committee set up by the High Court in 1991. The court ruled the committee should have five members as well as a representative of the Bank of England.

Mr Morris, of Touche Ross, the accountant, said the response from creditors was surprising and disappointing. "If you have five places to fill and only three nominations you are a worried liquidator."

Mr Morris said the liquidators need at least five nominations for the committee that will be recognised by the courts as representing the interests of creditors and supervising the work of the liquidators.

He was surprised that none of the members of the court-appointed informal committee has put forward a formal nomination, although one of them, Dr Adil Elias, is believed to be interested.

The liquidators have notified the 55,000 creditors resident in England, Scotland and Wales of their plans to hold the meeting on May 27, at Wembley Arena in London. They have had replies from 1,300 so far. BCCI SA, in England, Scotland, Wales, Luxembourg and the Isle of Man, had 150,000 creditors. The BCCI group had a total of 530,000 creditors.

The meeting will elect a new committee, hear details of the progress of the liquidators' attempts to recover funds, and a breakdown of fees and expenses incurred to date. In January, liquidators' fees were running at £82 million and expenses at £2.4 million.

Dr Elias is among the small group of creditors opposing a partial compensation deal negotiated by Touche with BCCI's majority shareholder, the Abu Dhabi authorities. The agreement could see a return to creditors of between 30p and 40p in the pound.

Their appeal against the Luxembourg court's approval of the plan will begin the day before the creditors meet.

Essential reading

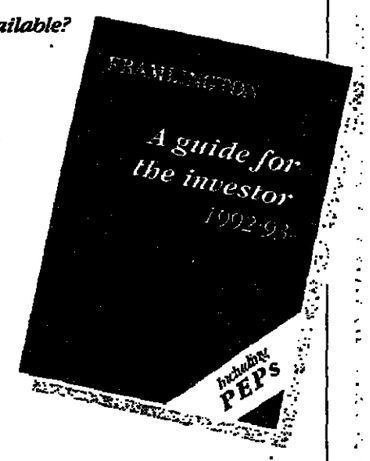
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FRAMLINGTON

More Americans go back to work

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE unemployment rate in America dropped a notch to 7 per cent last month, and the recovering economy produced the biggest one-month gain in jobs in four years, the government said.

The gains seemed likely to strengthen calls by Republicans in Congress for President Clinton to scrap the $31 billion stimulus package of business tax cuts and public works spending that he says is needed to create more jobs.

Robert Reich, the labour secretary, said after the figures were released that the administration had no plans to drop the package.

Mr Reich said it was "bad news" that 90 per cent of the job increases last month were part-time jobs for people who were looking for full-time employment. "We hope for a better jobs picture with regard to full-time jobs in the future."

The 0.1 percentage point improvement, which exceeded the expectations of private economists, stemmed from employment gains in construction, retail trades and services. In all, payroll employment jumped 365,000 last month, more than three times the previous month's rise and the biggest gain since January 1989. The February jobless rate is the lowest since November 1991, when it was 6.9 per cent. The rate peaked at 7.7 per cent last June, and has declined gradually since then.

William G. Barron, deputy commissioner of the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said in evidence prepared for the Joint Economic Committee: "It is clear that the job market strengthened considerably in February." He urged caution in assessing the improvement, noting that it marks an unusually large variation from the labour market pattern of recent months.

While the recession officially ended in March 1991, the recovery up to now has been the weakest on record and until mid-1992 business activity was not strong enough to keep the jobless rate from rising. Edward Yardeni, chief economist at the investment firm CJ Lawrence Inc in New York, said: "All in all it looks like a great report." He said last month's increase in overtime hours by factory workers, to a level of 4.2 hours, was the highest recorded. "It suggests we should start to see better employment gains in manufacturing."

The labour department's household survey, on which the unemployment rate is based, said the total civilian labour force last month grew by 244,000, after a decline of more than twice that amount in January. Employment as measured by this survey rose by 380,000.

A separate survey of business establishments said construction jobs grew by 96,000 last month, and service and retail jobs increased by 131,000 each.

Another hopeful sign for the future was a continuing increase in the factory working week. The department said it rose 0.1 hour to an "extraordinarily high" 41.5 hours. Since last October, the working week had risen by 0.4 of an hour.

Wheway supports McLeod's share bid

By Carl Mortished

WHEWAY, the environmental engineering company, is recommending that its shareholders accept a £14 million all-share offer from McLeod Russel Holdings, the paint group that owns 7 per cent of Wheway. The offer is one McLeod share for every ten Wheway, valuing Wheway shares at 10p each.

Hugh Ashton, chairman of Wheway, reported that difficult trading conditions have been made worse by cash constraints imposed on the group by its lenders. He warned that the outlook for Wheway in the immediate future was uncertain.

Wheway's borrowings stand at around £22 million and Mr Ashton said the banks' continued support could not be guaranteed.

John McGowan, Wheway's chief executive, resigned in February and was replaced by Brian Long. Mr McGowan is receiving compensation for loss of office to a total value of about £370,000, less than his entitlement under service agreements.

McLeod started merger talks with Wheway last November but the parties broke off negotiations in December. Talks resumed this year but no price was agreed and McLeod launched a hostile bid last month. However, the Wheway board urged shareholders not to accept because the company was in talks with other interested buyers.

Mr Ashton said no alternative offer had been received from the other parties. He said the group's gearing was hindering development and acceptance of the McLeod offer would provide financial support to develop the business.

STOCK MARKET

Hopes of base rate cut send shares soaring

A SOFTENING of German money market rates revived hopes that another cut in domestic base rates might be on the cards and sent share prices soaring to their highest levels ever.

The FT-SE 100 index closed near its best of the day, with a gain of 17.3 points at a new peak of 2,922.1, helped by an opening rise of 23 points in the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street. Its rise on the week is 54.1 points.

The Bundesbank resisted pressure to cut German interest rates at its fortnightly meeting on Thursday, but surprised money markets by cutting its repo rate yesterday.

The pound rose sharply against the mark, dragging the equity market and bonds in its wake as speculation soared that the government might sanction a further cut in interest rates before the Budget on March 16.

Turnover was boosted to almost 900 million shares in late trading by a sizable protected programme trade thought to have been carried out by BZW on behalf of an institution. A number of large lines of stock went through the market, including issues such as **Whitbread A**, unchanged at 466p.

Cookson Group dropped 14p to 199p after unveiling details of its second rights issue in the past two years to raise £185.6 million on the basis of one-for-four at 170p.

The group is expected to use the money to make acquisitions and has confirmed it is in talks about several potential opportunities. Last year, the group returned to the black with pre-tax profits of £72.5 million against a loss of almost £8 million in 1991. **TSB Group** was a firm market, climbing 8p to 183 as almost 8 million shares changed hands amid claims that the group had found a buyer for Hill Samuel, its loss-making merchant banking subsidiary. There were also suggestions that **BAT Industries**, 2p firmer at 935p, might bid for the lot. There was further heavy turnover of the banking sector in the wake of this week's appalling figures from **Barclays Bank**. Barclays rallied 16p to 408p despite BZW, its own securities arm, lowering its forecast of pre-tax profits for 1993 by £75 million to £300 million. It is looking for £900 million in 1994. Dealers reported switching out of Barclays and into **Lloyds**, up 5p at 552p. There were also gains for **Bank of Scotland**, 2p to 132p, **HSBC**, 3p to 634p, **Standard Chartered**, 6p to 708p, and **Abbey National**, 3p to 386p. But bearish comments left **National Westminster** 7p cheaper at 437p. **Rothmans International B** attracted institutional support, with a rise of 14p to 649p, after the announcement of a joint venture agreement with Nevo Tobacco, the privately owned Russian tobacco supplier. **Rank Organisation** fell 15p to 674p. Dealers said sentiment had been damaged by the news that Michael Gifford, the chairman, had sold a parcel of 2,000 shares earlier this week.

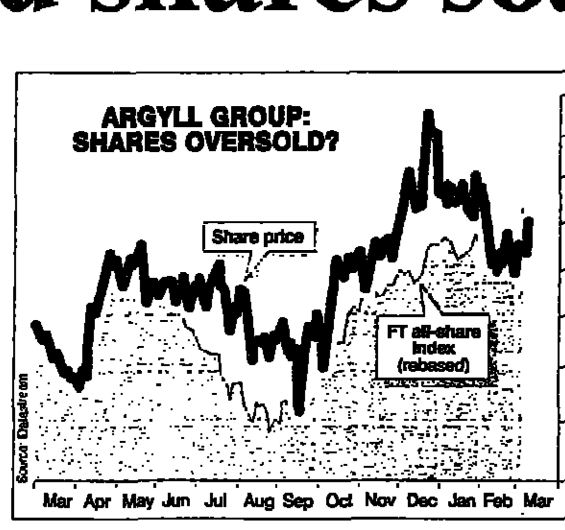
Union Discount fell 18p to 85p after it was learnt that bid talks had broken down. The group emphasised that it was not aware of any third party that might consider making a bid. But it is expected that Union will soon announce the sale of Winterflood Securities, its stockbroking arm for about £15 million.

Argos climbed 10p to 290p on whispers that the group is close to disposing of its Chesterman home furnishings business. Argos refused to comment, pointing out that with figures due out later this month, it had entered its closed period. But analysts said it was unlikely that Argos would want to sell the business. It is not strapped for cash and is sitting on almost £200 million at present.

It is hoped the softening of the repo rate will soon lead to a cut in German interest rates. As a result, attention was focused on building companies and other interest-rate sensitive issues. There were gains for **BPB Industries**, 7p to 220p, **Blue Circle Industries**, 6p to 234p, **Pilkington**, 4p to 113p, **RMC Group**, 6p to 624p, **Redland**, 4p to 480p, **Persimmon**, 3p to 235p, and **Ward Holdings**, 3p to 37p.

In the retail sector, **Laura Ashley** increased 5p to 79p, along with **Body Shop**, 14p to 175p, **Dixons**, 2p to 225p, **Kingfisher**, 13p to 542p, **Lloyds Chemists**, 4p to 284p, **Marks and Spencer**, 5p to 341p, **Next**, 6p to 144p, and **Sears**, 2p to 103p.

MICHAEL CLARK



Argyll responded to a push from BZW and UBS Phillips & Drew with a rise of 13p to 381p. It told BZW's sales team this week that trading was good, particularly in the new stores. Productivity benefits continue to filter through, and BZW says the shares are trading at a 20 per cent discount.

WALL STREET

Dow mixed in early trading

New York — Wall Street shares were mixed in morning trading after a sharp rise in American non-farm payrolls that stopped short a rally by bonds. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 4.86 points to 3,403.77.

☐ **Tokyo** — The market was pulled up by the soaring shares of NTT, the telephone concern. The Nikkei average was up 58.09 points, or 0.35 per cent, at 16,817.7.

☐ **Hong Kong** — Prices hit new highs as Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, said publication of a bill on reforms would be delayed for a fourth time. The Hang Seng index finished 35.01 points higher, at 6,502.81.

☐ **Sydney** — The all-ordinaries index closed 9.3 points down at 1613.6.

☐ **Frankfurt** — The Dax index shed 4.58 points to close at 1,682.82, giving up early gains on news of a Bundesbank cut in repo rates. *(Reuter)*

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
AMP Inc	59¼	58¾
AMR Corp	59⅞	59⅞
Abbott Labs	25⅝	25⅝
Aetna Life	47⅝	48¼
Ahmanson (HF)	20½	21
Air Prod & Chem	44⅝	44¼
Albertson's	54	54¼
Alcan Alumnm	18⅛	18⅛
Alco Standard	42⅞	42⅝
Allied Signal	66¼	66⅛
Alum Co of Am	70⅝	68⅞
Amax	18⅛	18⅛
Amerada Hess	51⅛	52
Amer Brands	33⅞	34
Amer Cyanamid	50⅝	50⅝
Amer El Power	36	35
Amer Express	25⅞	25
Amer Genl Corp	29⅝	28⅞
Amer Home Pr	61⅛	60¼
Amer Intl	122¼	123⅝
Amer Stores	39⅛	40⅞
Amer T & T	57⅛	57⅛
Ameritech	74⅝	74⅝
Amoco	55	55⅝
Anheuser-Busch	54⅝	54⅝
Apple Computer	55¼	55
Archer Daniels	26⅝	26⅞
Arkla	8⅜	8⅜
Armco	7⅛	7⅛
Armstrong Wrld	32⅜	32⅞
Asarco	24⅞	24⅞
Ashland Oil	28⅞	28
Atl Richfield	117⅛	119⅞
Auto Data Pro	53⅞	53⅞
Avery Dennison	26⅝	26⅞
Avon Products	62⅞	63⅞
Baker Hughes	22⅞	23⅞
Baltim Gas & El	25⅞	25
Banc One	52⅝	52⅝
BankAmerica	51⅛	51⅛
Bank of NY	56⅞	56⅞
Bankers Tr NY	69⅞	69⅞
Barnett Banks	46	46⅛
Bausch & Lomb	55	55⅞
Baxter Intl	29⅞	29⅞
Becton Dickinsn	35	35⅞
Bell Atlantic	54⅞	55⅞
BellSouth	59⅞	57⅛
Black & Decker	18⅛	17⅛
Block (H&R)	38⅞	38⅞
Boeing	34⅞	34⅞
Boise Cascade	24⅞	23⅞
Borden Inc	25⅞	25⅞
Bristol Myrs Sq	56⅞	56
Browning Ferris	27⅞	27⅞
Burlington Nthn	50⅞	48⅞
CBS	201¼	199⅞
CNA Financial	93⅞	94
CPC Intl	49	49⅞
CSX	72⅛	71⅞
Campbell Soup	43⅞	44⅛
Can Pacific	14⅛	14
Cptl Cities ABC	491	490
Cptl Holdings	75⅞	76⅞
Carolina Pwr	32⅞	32⅞
Caterpillar	58⅞	58⅞
Central & SW	32⅞	32⅞
Champion Intl	30⅞	30⅞
Chase Manhat	32	32⅞
Chemical Bk	41⅛	41
Chevron Corp	77⅞	78⅞
Chrysler	39	38⅞
Chubb Corp	91⅞	92⅞
Cigna Corp	60⅞	60⅞
Citicorp	26⅞	26⅞
Clorox	47⅞	47⅞
Coastal Corp	25⅞	25⅞
Coca Cola	43	43⅞
Colgate-Palmolive	63⅞	63⅞
Columbia Gas	23⅞	23⅞
Commonw Ed	27⅞	28
Compaq Comp	45⅞	45
Comp Ass Int	25	24⅞
Conagra	27⅞	27⅞
Cons Edison	35⅞	35⅞
Cons Nat Gas	46⅞	46⅞
Cons Rail	56⅞	55⅞
Cooper Inds	50⅞	50⅞
Corning Inc	34⅞	33⅞
Crown Cork	38⅞	37⅞
Dana Corp	45	45⅞
Dayton Hudson	77⅞	77⅞
Deere	53⅞	52⅞
Delta Air Lines	50⅞	49⅞
Deluxe Corp	42⅞	43
Detroit Edison	36⅞	36⅞
Digital Equip	47	46⅞
Dillard Dept St	44	43⅞
Disney (Walt)	45⅞	44⅞
Dominion Res	43	43⅞
Donelley (RR)	30	28⅞
Dover Corp	46⅞	45⅞
Dow Chemicals	55⅞	54⅞
Dow Jones	30⅞	30⅞
Dresser	19	19⅞
Duke Power	39	39⅞
Dun & Brdstreet	58⅞	58⅞
Du Pont	47⅞	47⅞
Eastman Kodak	53⅞	54
Eaton Corp	84⅞	82⅞

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
Emerson Elec	57⅛	58
Engelhard Corp	40⅝	40
Enron Corp	58⅞	58⅞
Enserch Corp	36	36⅛
Ethyl Corp	27⅞	27⅞
Exxon	64⅛	64⅛
FMC Corp	46⅞	46⅞
FPL Group	38⅛	38⅛
Federal Express	55⅛	55⅞
Fed Nat Mtge	80	80⅞
First Chicago	41⅛	42⅛
First Interstate	53⅞	53⅞
First Union Rlty	11⅛	11⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	34⅛	34⅞
Fluor Corp	44⅞	45
Ford Motor	49	47⅛
GTE Corp	36	35⅞
Gannett	50⅞	50⅞
Gap Inc Del	33	32⅞
Gen Cinema	35⅞	35⅞
Gen Dynamics	117	116⅞
Gen Electric	89⅛	85
Gen Mills	71⅛	72⅛
Gen Motors	39⅞	38⅞
Gen Reinsurance	117⅛	118⅛
Gen Signal	64⅞	64⅞
Genuine Parts	35	34⅞
Georgia Pac	66⅛	66⅛
Gillette	59⅞	59⅞
Glaxo ADR	19	19⅞
Goodrich (BF)	45⅞	43⅞
Goodyear Tire	71	70⅞
Grace (W&R)	38	37⅛
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23⅞	23⅞
Great Wstn Fin	18⅛	18⅛
Halliburton	34⅞	35⅞
Heinz (HJ)	44⅛	45⅞
Hercules	71⅞	71
Hershey Foods	54⅞	54⅞
Hewlett Packard	77⅞	75⅞
Hilton Hotels	47⅞	48⅛
Home Depot	63⅞	63⅞
Homestake	13⅛	12⅞
Honeywell	32⅞	32⅞
Household Intl	67⅞	67⅞
Houston Inds	46⅞	47⅞
Humana	19⅞	19⅞
ITT Corp	78⅞	78
Illinois Tool	73⅞	73⅞
INCO	22⅞	22⅞
Ingersoll Rand	33⅞	33⅞
Inland Steel	22	21⅞
Intel Corp	116⅞	119⅞
IBM	55⅞	54⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	110⅞	110⅞
Intl Paper	65⅞	64⅞
James River Va	19⅛	19
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	41	41⅞
K Mart	24⅞	24⅞
Kellogg	65⅞	66⅞
Kerr-McGee	46⅞	45⅞
Kimberly-Clark	55⅞	55⅞
Knight-Ridder	57⅞	58⅞
Lilly (Eli)	51⅞	51⅞
Limited Inc	28	24⅞
LIN Brdcstng	87⅞	82⅞
Lincoln Nat	75⅞	76
Litton	50⅞	50⅞
Liz Claiborne	39⅞	35
Lockheed Corp	59⅞	58⅞
Louisiana Pac	72⅞	71⅞
MCI Commun	41⅞	41⅞
Marriott	25⅞	24⅞
Marsh & McLnn	94	93⅞
Martin Marietta	71⅛	71⅛
Masco Corp	33⅞	32⅞
May Dept St	73	72⅞
Maytag Corp	13⅞	14
McCaw Cellular	36⅞	36⅞
McDonalds	51⅞	51⅞
McDonnell D	55⅞	55⅞
McGraw Hill	58⅞	59⅞
Mead Corp	43⅞	42⅞
Medtronic	75⅞	78⅞
Mellon Bk	60⅞	61⅞
Melville Corp	48⅞	48⅞
Merck Inc	37⅞	37⅞
Merrill Lynch	69⅞	68⅞
Minnesota Mine	107⅞	105⅞
Mobil Corp	67⅞	67⅞
Monsanto	53⅞	53⅞
Morgan (JP)	66⅞	65⅞
Motorola Inc	60⅞	59⅞
Natl Medical	9⅞	9⅞
Natl Semi	11	11
Natl Service Ind	26⅞	26⅞
Navistar Int	2⅞	2⅞
NBD Bancorp	35	35⅞
NY Times A	28⅞	28⅞
Newmont Mng	40⅞	39⅞
Niag Mohawk	21⅞	22⅞
Nike B	71⅞	71⅞
NL Industries	4⅞	5
Nordstrom	33⅞	32⅞
Norfolk Sthrn	65⅞	64⅞
Nthn State Pwr	46⅞	46⅞
Norwest Corp	47⅞	46⅞
Nynex Corp	91⅞	91⅞
Occidental Pet	20	20
Ohio Edison	24⅞	24⅞

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
Oracle Systems	33⅞	33⅞
Oryx Energy Co	21⅞	22⅞
PNC Financial	31⅞	32⅞
PPG Industries	67⅞	67⅞
Paccar Inc	59	58⅞
Pacificorp	17⅞	18
Pac Enterprises	22⅞	22⅞
Pac Gas & Elec	35⅞	35⅞
Pac Telesis	47⅞	47⅞
Pall Corp	17⅞	17⅞
Panhandle East	21⅞	21⅞
Paramount Comm	49⅞	49⅞
Parker Hannifin	31⅞	31⅞
Penney (JC)	82⅞	81⅞
Pennzoil	57⅞	57⅞
Pepsico	41⅞	40⅞
Pfizer	59⅞	60⅞
Phelps Dodge	51⅞	49⅞
Philadel Elec	29⅞	29⅞
Philip Morris	64⅞	65⅞
Phillips Pet	29	28⅞
Pitney Bowes	42⅞	41⅞
Polaroid	28⅞	28⅞
Price Co	34⅞	34⅞
Primerica	38	37⅞
Procter & Gmbl	53⅞	53⅞
Pub Serv E & G	33	32⅞
Quaker Oats	68⅞	69⅞
Ralston Purina	50⅞	51
Raychem Corp	43⅞	43⅞
Raytheon	55	54⅞
Reebok Intl	31⅞	32⅞
Reynolds Metals	51⅞	50⅞
Roadway Srvcs	64⅞	64
Rockwell Intl	28⅞	28⅞
Rohm & Haas	57⅞	57⅞
Royal Dutch	85⅞	85⅞
Rubbermaid	33	33⅞
Safeco Corp	62⅞	63⅞
St Paul's Cos	77⅞	77⅞
Salomon Inc	40⅞	39⅞
Santa Fe S Pac	13⅞	13⅞
Sara Lee Corp	30⅞	30⅞
Scecorp	49	49
Schering Plough	58⅞	58⅞
Schlumberger	59⅞	60
Scott Paper	38⅞	39
Seagram	27⅞	27
Sears Roebuck	52⅞	51⅞
Shell Trans	52	52⅞
Sherwin Wllms	33	32⅞
Skyline Corp	22⅞	22⅞
Snap-On-Tools	33⅞	33⅞
Southern Co	41	41⅞
Sthwestern Bell	75	75⅞
Sprint Corp	29⅞	28⅞
Stanley Works	41⅞	42⅞
Sun Company	27⅞	28
Sunstrust	46⅞	47⅞
Supervalu	32⅞	32⅞
Syntex Corp	19⅞	19⅞
Sysco Corp	25⅞	26⅞
TRW Inc	59⅞	59⅞
Tandem Comp	13	12⅞
Tandy Corp	26⅞	25⅞
Telecom Corp	2⅞	2⅞
Teledyne	20⅞	20⅞
Temple Inland	49	49⅞
Tenneco	46	46⅞
Texaco	63⅞	63⅞
Texas Inst	59	57⅞
Texas Utilities	45⅞	46⅞
Textron	43⅞	43⅞
Time Warner	36	35⅞
Times-Mirror	32⅞	32⅞
Timken	29⅞	29⅞
Torchmark	61	60⅞
Toys R Us	39⅞	39
Transamerica	47⅞	47⅞
Travelers Corp	27⅞	27⅞
Tribune	52⅞	52⅞
Tyco Labs	45⅞	45⅞
UAL Corp	116⅞	116⅞
UST Inc	28⅞	27⅞
USX Marathon	18⅞	18⅞
Unilever NV	113⅞	114
Union Camp	44⅞	44⅞
Union Carbide	17	17
Union Pacific	59⅞	59⅞
Unisys Corp	13⅞	13⅞
USAir Group	16⅞	16⅞
USF&G Corp	13⅞	13⅞
US Life	38⅞	38⅞
US West	42⅞	42⅞
United Tech	46⅞	46⅞
Unocal Corp	27⅞	27⅞
Upjohn	27⅞	28
VF Corp	50⅞	50⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	32⅞	32⅞
Warner-Lambert	65⅞	65⅞
Waste Mgmnt Inc	37⅞	37⅞
Wells Fargo	102	102⅞
Westinghouse El	13⅞	13⅞
Weyerhaeuser	44⅞	43⅞
Whirlpool	52⅞	51⅞
Whitman	14⅞	14⅞
Winn Dixie	69⅞	69⅞
Woolworth	28⅞	28⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	34⅞	34⅞
Xerox	83	83

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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BRITISH FUNDS

GOVERNMENT securities responded positively to the cut in German money market rates and the stronger pound.

Prices were marked sharply higher. At the longer end Treasury 9 per cent 2012 rose £13/16 to £107 9/32, while at the shorter end Exchequer 9¾ per cent 1998 could only muster a lead of 12 ticks at £112 13/32. On the futures market, the June series of the Long Gilt touched £107¼, before settling at £107 1/32.

The revival of demand enabled the Bank of England to exhaust the rest of Treasury 7¼ per cent 1998 at £102 15/16. All that remains of the £1 billion of taplets issued this week are remnants of Treasury Index-linked 2½ per cent 2013. The Bank is expected to take advantage of the bond market's firmness to step-up the government's funding programme with further issues of tap stock next week.

1992/93 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
		SHORTS (under 5 years)				
104⅞	100⅞	Treas 12¾% 1993	102⅛	...	12.20	5.63
100⅛	95⅞	Fund 6% 1993	100⅞	...	5.99	5.65
107⅛	103⅛	Treas 13¾% 1993	105⅞	-⅛	13.01	5.55
102⅞	96⅛	Treas 8¼% 1994	102⅞	...	8.28	5.46
110⅞	104⅞	Treas 14½% 1994	108⅛	..	13.35	5.41
110⅞	103⅞	Exch 13½% 1994	108⅛	...	12.41	5.48
105⅞	98⅞	Treas 10% 1994	105⅛	...	9.49	5.51
110⅞	103⅞	Exch 12½% 1994	109⅛	...	11.40	5.54
105⅞	96⅛	Treas 9% 1994	105⅞	...	8.54	5.61
111⅞	102⅞	Treas 12% 1995	111⅞	+⅛	10.80	5.70
96⅛	88⅛	Gas 3% 1990-95	96⅛	...	3.11	4.64
109⅛	99⅞	Exch 10¼% 1995	109⅛	+⅛	9.35	5.85
116⅛	106⅛	Treas 12¾% 1995	116⅞	+⅛	10.93	5.93
120⅛	109⅞	Treas 14% 1996	120⅛	+⅛	11.63	6.16
125⅛	113⅞	Treas 15¼% 1996	125⅛	+⅛	12.18	6.28
120⅞	108	Exch 13¼% 1996	119⅛	+⅛	11.06	6.29
111⅞	98⅞	Conv 10% 1996	111⅛	+⅛	8.98	6.46
122⅞	109⅞	Treas 13¼% 1997	122⅞	+⅛	10.82	6.59
113⅛	100⅞	Exch 10½% 1997	113⅞	+⅛	9.25	6.57
108⅞	94	Treas 8¾% 1997	108⅛	+⅛	8.08	6.56
132⅞	117⅞	Exch 15% 1997	132⅛	+⅛	11.36	6.79
112⅛	97⅞	Exch 9¾% 1998	112⅛	+⅛	8.69	6.72
		MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)				
102⅞	98⅞	Treas 7¼% 1998	102⅞	+⅛	7.14	6.53
100⅛	86⅞	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100⅞	+⅛	6.70	6.59
139⅞	123⅞	Treas 15½% 1998	138⅞ †	+⅛	11.22	7.04
122⅞	107⅞	Exch 12% 1998	122⅛	+⅛	9.81	7.13
112⅞	97⅞	Treas 9½% 1999	112⅞	+⅛	8.47	6.92
124⅛	109⅛	Exch 12¼% 1999	124⅞ †	+⅛	9.85	7.18
117⅞	101⅞	Treas 10½% 1999	117⅞	+⅛	8.96	7.01
116⅞	100⅞	Conv 10¼% 1999	116⅞	+⅛	8.79	7.08
110⅛	94⅛	Conv 9% 2000	110⅛	+⅛	8.14	7.02
130⅞	114⅞	Treas 13% 2000	130⅞	+⅛	9.94	7.46
115	99⅞	Treas 10% 2001	114⅞	+⅛	8.70	7.44
129⅞	115⅞	Treas 14% 1998-01	129⅛	+⅛	10.84	7.16
114⅞	98⅛	Treas 9¾% 2002	114	+⅛	8.55	7.62
53⅞	46⅞	Treas 8pc 2003	52⅞	-⅛	7.77	7.55
115⅛	100⅛	Treas 10% 2003	115⅞	-⅛	8.63	7.74
122⅛	107⅞	Treas 11½% 2001-04	122⅞ †	+⅛	9.42	7.73
74⅛	59⅛	Fund 3½% 1999-04	74⅞	+⅛	4.71	6.76
112	96⅞	Conv 9½% 2004	111⅛	+⅛	8.49	7.89
112⅞	96⅞	Conv 9½% 2005	111⅞	+⅛	8.49	7.92
131⅞	116⅞	Treas 12½% 2003-05	131⅛	+⅛	9.51	8.05
101⅛	85⅛	Treas 8% 2002-06	100⅞ †	+⅛	7.93	7.87
125⅛	110⅞	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	125⅞	+⅛	9.40	8.01
103⅞	89⅞	Treas 8½% 2007	103⅞	+⅛	8.20	8.04
139⅛	123⅞	Treas 13½% 2004-08	139⅛ †	+⅛	9.69	8.05
		LONGS (over 15 years)				
107⅞	93⅞	Treas 9% 2008	107⅞	+⅛	8.35	8.22
98⅞	85⅛	Treas 8% 2009	98⅛ †	+⅛	8.11	8.13
107⅛	93⅞	Conv 9% 2011	107⅞	+⅛	8.40	8.22
107⅞	93⅞	Treas 9% 2012	107⅛	+⅛	8.40	8.24
75⅞	62⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	75⅞xd	+⅛	7.26	7.94
96⅛	81⅞	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	96⅛	+⅛	8.03	8.08
134⅞	118⅞	Exch 12% 2013-17	134⅞	+⅛	8.92	8.43
104⅞	91⅞	Treas 8¾% 2017	104⅞	+⅛	8.94	8.31
		UNDATED				
47⅞	39⅛	Consols 4%	47⅞	+⅛	8.41	...
41⅛	35⅛	War Ln 3½%	41⅞	+⅛	8.38	...
63⅞	59	Conv 3½%	62⅛ †	+⅛	5.60	...
31⅛	24⅞	Consols 2½%	31⅛ †	+⅛	8.02	...
29⅞	24⅞	Treas 2½%	29⅞xd	+⅛	8.35	...
		INDEX-LINKED				
133⅛	122⅛	Treas IL 2% 1994	132⅛	+⅛	...	0.66
197⅛	176⅛	Treas IL 2% 1996	196⅞xd	+⅛	1.43	2.16
108⅞	100⅞	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	108⅛	+⅛	1.97	2.54
165⅛	139⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2001	165⅛ †	+⅛	2.63	2.86
162⅞	135	Treas IL 2½% 2003	162⅞	+⅛	2.79	3.07
110⅞	101⅛	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	110⅛	+⅛	2.90	3.18
167⅞	137⅞	Treas IL 2% 2006	167⅛	+⅛	3.01	3.22
151⅞	124⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2009	151⅛	+⅛	3.21	3.40
156⅛	129⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2011	156⅛	+⅛	3.29	3.46
128⅞	105⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2013	128⅛	+⅛	3.35	3.51
136⅛	112⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2016	136⅞	+⅛	3.43	3.58
130⅛	107⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2020	130⅛	+⅛	3.49	3.62
108⅞	88⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2024	108⅛	-⅛	3.52	3.64
109⅛	91⅞	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	108⅛	+⅛	3.53	3.66

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Barclays	408p (+16p)
Hambros	328p (+10p)
Boddington	242p (+12p)
SA Breweries	948p (+28p)
T Cowie	216p (+10p)
Perry Group	161p (+11p)
Enterprise	488p (+10p)
TI	305p (+10p)
Refuge	980p (+17p)
Utd Friendly	640p (+15p)
Body Shop	175p (+14p)
Argos	290p (+10p)
Serco Group	863p (+10p)
Mountview	840p (+15p)
Peel	200p (+31p)
Lamont	313p (+11p)
Rothmans 'B'	649p (+14p)
Hartstone	161p (+12p)
ADT	620p (+25p)

FALLS:

Union Discount	84p (-19p)
J Cropper	201p (-10p)
J Smurfit	271p (-12p)
Eurotunnel Uts	464p (-19p)

Closing Prices Page 33

RECENT ISSUES

Intl Food Machinery (51)	71	+1
Merlin Intl Green Units	94	+2
Motor World (210)	271	+1
New City & Com Inv Tst	89	+1
New City & Com Wts	23	...
Pilot Invstmnt Trust (100)	99	...
Pilot Investment Wts	26	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bellway n/p (320)	38	-7
Berkeley Group n/p (295)	59	...
Bowater Units n/p (440)	74	+2
Howden Group n/p (52)	10	...
Kingfisher Units n/p (450)	90	+12
MMI n/p (7½)	6	...
Menvier-Swain n/p (520)	67	...
PizzaExpress n/p (40)	38	...
Stonehill Hldgs A n/p (10)	3½	...
Trafalgar House n/p (60)	17½	+½
Triplex Lloyd n/p (140)	29	...
Volex n/p (345)	55	+2
Wills Group n/p (16)	5½	...
Yorkshire Chems n/p (330)	46	-1

FT-SE VOLUMES

Abbey Natl	4,000	Coats Vyla	2,300	Legal & Gn	728	Scot & New	1,000
Alld-Lyons	2,500	Cm Union	540	Lloyds Bk	2,200	Scot Power	3,400
Anglian W	3,100	Courtaulds	906	MB Cardn	662	Sears	4,900
Argyll Gp	2,900	De La Rue	422	Marks Spr	6,400	Svrn Trent	2,700
Arjo Wig	1,100	Eng China	1,600	NFC	1,300	Shell Trans	5,100
AB Foods	373	Enterpr Oil	1,900	NatWst Bk	4,700	Siebe	644
BAA	1,700	Fisons	6,000	Nat Power	3,200	SmKl Bch	2,600
BAT Inds	3,100	Forte	3,000	Nth Wst W	3,000	Smith Nph	1,100
BOC	1,000	GRE	3,200	Nthrn Fds	821	Smith (WH)	963
BP	10,000	GUS A	300	P & O	1,800	Sthern Elec	406
BT	6,800	Gen Acc	332	Pearson	1,500	Std Chartd	881
BTR	3,600	Gen Elec	6,000	PowerGen	3,200	Sun Allnce	2,000
Bk of Scot	3,200	Glaxo	5,100	Prudential	2,700	TI Gp	9,100
Barclays	16,000	Granada	1,300	RTZ	1,100	TSB	8,000
Bass	1,900	Grand Met	3,600	Rank Org	1,000	Tate & Lyle	1,400
Blue Circle	4,700	Guinness	5,600	Reckitt Col	525	Tesco	5,100
Boots	1,200	HSBC	2,800	Redland	1,100	Thames W	1,500
Bowater	778	Hanson	4,500	Reed Intl	1,000	Thrn EMI	629
Brit Airwys	5,100	ICI	2,900	Rentokil	356	Tomkins	1,600
Brit Gas	7,300	Inchcape	693	Reuters	742	Unilever	999
Brit Steel	4,100	Kingfisher	4,100	Rothmans	420	Utd Bisc	1,700
Burmah C	1,200	Kwik Save	431	Ryl Ins	1,400	Vodafone	5,800
Cable Wire	1,700	LASMO	3,700	Ryl Bk Scot	1,500	Wellcome	862
Cadbury	3,500	Ladbroke	4,200	Sainsbury	3,800	Whitbd 'A'	1,300
Carlton C	638	Land Secs	4,600	Scot Hydro	1,400	Wlms Hld	943

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 3413.23 (+14.32)
S&P Composite .... 447.33 (-0.01)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge .... 16817.70 (+58.09)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 6502.81 (+35.01)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 101.8 (+0.8)

Sydney: AO .... 1613.6 (-9.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 1682.82 (-4.58)

FT 30 share: .... 2265.9 (+9.6)

Brussels:
General .... 6033.57 (+53.32)

Paris: CAC .... 531.41 (+2.56)

Zurich: SKA Gen .... 480.4 (-0.1)

London:
FT A All-Share .... 1424.13 (+8.38)
FT 500 .... 1562.63 (+8.54)
FT Gold Mines .... 92.6 (+4.0)
FT Fixed Interest .... 113.14 (+0.12)
FT Govt Secs .... 97.71 (+0.59)
Bargains 36055
SEAQ Volume 860.1m
USM (Datastrm) .... 132.37 (-0.58)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
February 22	March 5	June 3	June 14

Call options were taken out on 5/3/93: Airtours, Alvis, Aran Energy, Anglo Pacific Res, Brent Walker, Br Aerospace, DC Gardner, Hartstone, Monument Oil & Gas, Next, Proteus Intl, Reed Intl, Regalian Props, Stonehill, Taylor Nelson.
Put: Br Aerospace. Put & Call: NMC.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Mar 93	2927.0	2938.0	2908.0	2931.0	9834
Previous open interest: 55338	Jun 93	2948.0	2953.0	2930.0	2949.0	1679
Three Month Sterling	Mar 93	94.00	94.08	94.00	94.06	8406
Previous open interest: 287324	Jun 93	94.55	94.65	94.55	94.61	24333
	Sep 93	94.71	94.81	94.71	94.77	4735
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 93	96.83	96.83	96.74	96.74	818
Previous open interest: 23799	Jun 93	96.75	96.76	96.55	96.55	551
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 93	91.97	92.08	91.97	92.05	20475
Previous open interest: 500762	Jun 93	93.07	93.21	93.07	93.13	60356
US Treasury Bond	Mar 93	112-16	112-16	112-00	112-20	19
Previous open interest: 337	Jun 93				110-21	0
Long Gilt	Mar 93	105-30	106-04	105-27	106-01	3865
Previous open interest: 81813	Jun 93	106-18	107-08	106-18	107-01	38749
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 93				111.58	0
	Jun 93	111.47	111.55	110.90	110.95	2238
German Govmt Bond	Mar 93	95.97	96.62	95.97	96.33	8991
Previous open interest: 146437	Jun 93	96.28	96.84	96.28	96.65	90655
Three month ECU	Mar 93	90.69	90.84	90.69	90.82	820
Previous open interest: 17797	Jun 93	91.75	91.90	91.75	91.87	1047
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 93	94.81	94.83	94.77	94.83	1478
Previous open interest: 49099	Jun 93	95.50	95.60	95.50	95.59	5164
Italian Govmt Bond	Jun 93	96.65	97.45	96.58	97.36	21259
Previous open interest: 41993	Sep 93				97.19	0

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 77.9 (day's range 77.6-77.9).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6852-2.7098	2.7064-2.7098	⅜-¼ds	1⅛-1⅜ds
Brussels	49.18-49.73	49.62-49.73	9-14ds	29-36ds
Copenhagen	9.1770-9.2910	9.2690-9.2910	6⅞-10ds	19⅛-24⅜ds
Dublin	0.9834-0.9895	0.9846-0.9868	49-59ds	131-148ds
Frankfurt	2.3933-2.4217	2.4185-2.4217	⅜-⅝ds	1⅛-1⅜ds
Lisbon	220.42-222.63	222.18-222.63	175-194ds	442-491ds
Madrid	171.56-172.98	172.56-172.98	178-196ds	383-424ds
Milan	2271.90-2295.80	2286.90-2295.80	10-12ds	28-30ds
Montreal	1.8053-1.8126	1.8055-1.8075	0.26-0.13pr	0.24-0.07pr
New York	1.4465-1.4580	1.4465-1.4475	0.44-0.42pr	1.05-1.02pr
Oslo	10.1740-10.2780	10.2550-10.2780	1⅞-3⅜ds	6-8⅛ds
Paris	8.1080-8.1600	8.1290-8.1500	4⅛-4⅞ds	11⅞-12⅜ds
Stockholm	11.1220-11.2510	11.2280-11.2510	2⅞-5⅛ds	8½-11ds
Tokyo	169.59-170.70	170.13-170.33	½-⅜pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Vienna	16.79-17.00	16.95-17.00	2⅛-3⅜ds	6⅞-8⅛ds
Zurich	2.2217-2.2404	2.2370-2.2401	¼pr-par	½-¼pr

Source: Extel — Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4475-1.4501
Australia dollar	2.0425-2.0456
Bahrain dinar	0.5435-0.5555
Brazil cruzeiro*	30301.3-30322.5
Cyprus pound	0.705-0.715
Finland marka	8.6395-8.7555
Greece drachma	318.5-325.5
Hong Kong dollar	11.2114-11.2206
India rupee	45.95-46.91
Kuwait dinar KD	0.443-0.453
Malaysia ringgit	3.7881-3.7922
Mexico peso	4.43-4.53
New Zealand dollar	2.7462-2.7532
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.3945-5.5205
Singapore dollar	2.3816-2.3848
S Africa rand (fin)	6.5617-6.6098
S Africa rand (com)	4.5845-4.5906
U A E dirham	5.2905-5.4145

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.4088-1.4098
Austria	11.67-11.69
Belgium (Com)	34.16-34.20
Canada	1.2455-1.2460
Denmark	6.35-6.36
France	5.6115-5.6215
Germany	1.659-1.660
Hong Kong	7.732-7.733
Ireland	1.467-1.469
Italy	1571.0-1576.0
Japan	117.55-117.60
Malaysia	2.6125-2.6135
Netherlands	1.8665-1.8675
Norway	7.02-7.03
Portugal	153.1-153.3
Singapore	1.6425-1.6435
Spain	118.5-118.8
Sweden	7.70-7.71
Switzerland	1.5425-1.5435

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 4 Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅞; 3 mth 5¾. Sell: 2 mth 5¾; 3 mth: 5⅞.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	5⅞-5¾	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅞	5⅝-5½	...
Sterling Money Rates	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝
Interbank	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝

Overnight: open 6¼, close 4.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps	6⅛	n/a	6	5⅞	5⅞
Sterling CDs	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝
Dollar CDs	3.14-3.10	n/a	3.15-3.11	3.25-3.20	3.47-3.42
Building Society CDs	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £514m allotted: £100m: Bids: £98.66% received: 70%: Last week: £98.65% received: 74%: Avge rate: £5.3717% last wk £5.4148%: Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Deutschemark	8⅛-8⅛	8⅛-8⅛	8-7⅞	7⅞-7⅞	8⅛-7⅞
French Franc	11⅞-11⅛	11⅞-11⅛	11⅞-11⅛	10⅞-10⅞	11⅞-10⅞
Swiss Franc	5⅞-5½	5⅛-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5-4⅞	5⅞-4⅞
Yen	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3	3⅛-2⅞

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Bank & Co)

Bullion: Open $329.40-329.80 Close: $329.60-330.10 High: $329.80-330.30 Low: $328.20-328.70 Krugerrand: $328.50-330.50 (£226.50-228.50)
Sovereigns: Old $78.50-81.50 (£52.00-54.00) New $78.50-81.50 (£52.00-54.00)
Platinum: $344.30 (£237.30) Silver: $3.60 (£2.485) Palladium: $104.75 (£72.30)

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Lyon	550	37	52	57	7	25	31
(*579)	600	11	24	35	33	55	60
ASDA	57	12	15	16½	1½	4½	6
(*60½)	67	4½	10	11½	5½	9	11½
Bass	550	48	62	73	6½	18	25
(*560)	600	16	34	47	26	43	50
Boots	500	19	30	42	16	32	37
(*499½)	550	4	13	22	52	66	69
Br Airways	280	19	28	34	9½	22	25
(*290)	300	9	18	25	18	33	37
BP	260	34	41	44	2½	7½	11
(*290)	280	18	27	32	6½	14	19
	300	7	16	22	17	25	29
Br Steel	80	9	13½	16½	3½	8	10
(*86½)	90	4	9	11½	8½	13	15
C & W	700	35	60	72	15	34	42
(*723½)	750	14	34	48	39	62	70
CU	580	47	65	73	6	15	24
(*621)	629	16	36	45	25	35	47
Courtauld	550	55	70	79	5	18	25
(*595)	600	22	39	51	22	40	48
GKN	460	22	35	39	16	26	35
(*479)	500	5½	18	24	44	50	58
Grnd Met	420	40	54	61	5	16	22
(*458)	460	13	31	40	21	35	40
ICI	1150	100	115	145	20	45	56
(*1247½)	1200	55	85	114	40	66	79
	1250	26	62	90	70	94	105
Kingfishr	486	63	70	75	4	14	22
(*542)	535	24	37	47	16	35	45
Ladbroke	180	25	29	36	6	15	21
(*203)	200	8½	18	25	13	26	32
Land Sec	460	35	43	48	4	10	18
(*492)	500	11	18	27	19	39	41
M & S	330	18	26	32	7	16	20
(*341½)	360	5	13	18	25	35	37
Sainsbury	500	41	53	62	6	18	24
(*533½)	550	13	26	36	28	43	48
Shell	550	32	49	56	5	13	21
(*573½)	600	7	21	28	31	37	45
Smkl Bch	420	41	54	62	5½	15	22
(*454½)	460	16	31	41	21	34	40
Storehse	180	16	24	30	7	15	18
(*186½)	200	6½	14	19	18	26	30
Trafalgar	74	7	11	14	4	6½	9
(*77½)	83	3½	7	10½	8½	12	14
Unilever	1200	29	65	99	33	53	59
(*1217½)	1250	11	37	60	67	83	90
Utd Bisc	360	21	30	38	10	20	23
(*374)	390	6½	17	25	31	36	39

March 5, 1993 Tot: 27836 Call: 15906 Put: 11930 FT-SE Call: 1177 Put: 5391
*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
BAA	750	47	59	75	17	31	39
(*774)	800	22	34	49	43	58	66
BAT Ind	900	50	69	78	27	38	54
(*935)	950	24	43	55	55	64	80
BTR	550	36	44	49	11	15	21
(*582)	600	9½	18	26	39	42	50
Br Aero	280	30	43	57	25	34	45
(*276)	300	22	35	46	36	46	55
Br Telcm	420	24	33	39	9	20	24
(*433)	460	8	14	20	32	43	47
Cadbury	460	39	49	59	10	17	24
(*495)	500	16	29	38	30	37	42
Guinness	420	37	42	52	14	20	24
(*447)	460	14	23	32	36	41	47
GEC	300	22	27	31	6½	13	17
(*312½)	330	8	12	16	22	30	34
Hanson	240	20½	23	26½	5	9	12½
(*254½)	260	9	13½	16½	13	19	23
LASMO	180	15	24	30	15	21	25
(*195)	200	9	17	22	29	33	40
Lucas	140	13	18	21	10	14	20
(*142½)	160	5½	11	14	26	29	35
P & O	550	40	51	59	26	38	55
(*573½)	600	16	29	39	57	69	82
Pilkngtn	100	18	21	26	5½	9	12
(*112½)	110	12	17	21	9½	15	17
Prudential	300	38	41	46	6	10	15
(*334)	330	16*	23	30	17	23	29
RTZ	650	47	64	77	19	31	42
(*687½)	700	20	38	52	49	59	69
Scot New	420	34	42	49	11	24	29
(*438½)	460	14	23	30	32	47	52
Tesco	240	17	25	30	12	16	20
(*249)	260	8½	15	21	24	28	31
Thames W	500	44	50	55	6	17	21
(*530½)	550	14	21	30	28	43	47
Vodafone	390	39	49	59	11	20	27
(*414½)	420	22	33	42	24	34	42

FT-SE INDEX (*2921½)

	2800	2850	2900	2950	3000	3050
Calls						
Mar	119	87	46	19	7	2½
Apr	138	108	78	48	27	13
May	159	125	95	69	51	35
Jun	173	142	112	87	67	48
Dec	255	-	198	-	160	-
Puts						
Mar	5	11	24	52	91	150
Apr	22	30	47	82	116	155
May	35	49	75	131	168	207
Jun	50	65	86	111	141	176
Dec	103	-	142	-	193	-

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	360	26	31	39	4½	14	22
(*386)	390	5	16	24	22	30	37
Amstrad	25	3	4½	6	1½	2	3½
(*27)	30	1	3½	4	4½	5	7
Barclays	390	21	36	47	8½	24	31
(*407½)	420	6	22	33	29	41	51
Blue Circ	220	15	22	29	6½	18	24
(*233½)	240	6½	13	20	18	31	35
Br Gas	280	28	31	34	1	6½	11
(*307)	300	10	17	22	4½	15	18
	330	1½	4½	10	26	36	38
Dixons	220	12	23	29	7	14	23
(*225)	240	4	14	20	19	27	34
Eurotnnl	460	27	50	68	20	38	48
(*464)	500	9	31	49	45	62	74
Forte	180	22	28	32	3	8½	14
(*198½)	200	7½	14	23	8	20	25
Glaxo	650	30	60	82	15	36	50
(*657)	700	5½	36	57	48	66	76
	750	2½	22	40	94	102	110
HSBC	600	41	57	73	9½	32	45
(*632)	650	12	33	50	33	58	70
Hillsdwn	140	22	27	28	2	7½	11
(*161½)	160	7½	13½	16½	6½	17	22
Lonrho	80	7½	15	19	2	5	10
(*86)	90	3	9	12	7	11	15½
Reuter	1350	40	89	120	32	67	95
(*1373½)	1400	19	67	97	62	98	120
R-Royce	130	7	11½	16	5½	12½	15½
(*133½)	140	3½	7	12½	11½	15½	21½
Sears	100	5	9	12	4	8½	12
(*103½)	110	1½	4½	5	11	15	18
Thrn Emi	850	36	60	72	5½	25	46
(*872½)	900	9	33	45	36	50	75
TSB	160	20	26	30	1½	7	11
(*183)	180	5	17	20	8½	14	21
Vaal Reefs	35	4	6	6	1½	3	4½
(*$38)	40	1½	3½	4	5	6	8
Wellcome	850	60	83	110	6½	33	49
(*902½)	900	21	55	79	29	53	68

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Fisons	200	25	32	42	5	20	27
(*210)	220	14	22	32	18	32	38

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
Eastrn Elc	460	34	42	50	13	26	31
(*476)	500	15	23	30	34	49	54

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Natl Pwr	300	28	37	42	1½	7	14
(*326)	330	7	19	24	11	20	27
Scot Pwr	220	22	29	33	1	5	10½
(*241)	240	6½	16	19½	5½	12	20

COMMODITIES

GNI REPORT: Sugar staged a surprising sell-off, despite the news that Thailand's crop will fall well below expectations. Thailand will produce about 3.86 million tonnes of raw sugar in 1993, against earlier expectations closer to 5 million tonnes. Normally a crop revision of this scale would cause a sharp rise in price, but talk of output problems has circulated the market for several weeks.

LONDON FOX
COCOA

Mar	695-693	May	785-784
May	709-708	Jul	800-797
Jul	721-720	Sep	815-810
Sep	733-732	Dec	839-832
Dec	751-750		
Mar	771-769		Volume: 6393

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1000-990	Nov	920-910
May	940-935	Jan	930-920
Jul	905-904	Mar	940-925
Sep	910-903		Volume: 1913

RAW SUGAR (FOB)

C Czarnikow		Dec	196.0-92.0
Spot 218.0		Mar	unq
May	223.0-21.0	May	200.0-98.0
Aug	227.0-25.0	Aug	unq
Oct	211.0-09.0		Volume: 70

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Renters		Dec	256.0-54.0
Spot 277.5		Mar	254.9-52.5
May	274.5-73.5	May	257.0-53.6
Aug	277.5-76.5	Aug	262.4-55.6
Oct	257.0-56.5		Volume: 1434

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 5

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	88.28	121.70	136.15
(+/-)	+6.42	+1.42	+5.77
Eng/Wales	88.28	121.76	136.15
(+/-)	+0.42	+1.68	-5.50
(%)	+19.2	-33.2	+8.6
Scotland	n/a	121.38	136.24
(+/-)	n/a	-0.54	+6.68
(%)	n/a	-64.8	-37.2

LONDON MEAT FUTURES
Live Pig (p/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Mar	114.0	115.5	Jun	110.0	112.0
May	113.5	115.0			Volume: 84

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	145.30
May	146.40
Jun	147.45
Sep	108.80
Nov	110.95
	Volume: 226

BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	141.25
May	141.00
Sep	106.65
Nov	109.40
Jan	112.70
	Volume: 71

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)

Apr	151.30
Jun	142.80
Aug	143.80
Oct	unq
Dec	unq
	Volume: 0

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	40.0	40.5
May	42.0	42.3
Apr	95.0	93.5
		Volume: 63

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/k)
Apr 65.00-64.50

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): A round of pre-weekend short-covering notched prices even higher.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.60	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Mar)	19.70	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Apr)	19.50	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	21.00	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.05	+0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas .15	197 (+1)	199 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	182 (+1)	183 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Mar	182 (n/c)	183 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Apr	181 (+1)	182 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	76 (-1)	78 (-1)
Naphtha	177 (-1)	179 (-1)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd
GAS OIL

Mar	179.25-79.50	Jun	177.00-77.25
Apr	178.25-78.50	Jul	177.50-78.00
May	177.00-77.25	Aug	179.25-79.75
			Vol: 16623

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	19.50-19.52	Jul	19.46-19.49
May	19.48-19.49	Aug	19.45-19.49
Jun	19.48-19.49		Vol: 34988

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Mar	194.00-97.00	Jun	206.00-09.00
Apr	202.00 BID	Jul	214.00 SLR
May	204.50-07.00		Vol: 68

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 93	1410	1399	1412
Apr 93	1414	1408	1414
May 93	1370	1364	1365
Jul 93	1209	1208	1208

Vol: 250 lots. Open int'st: 2556 Index 1385 -5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff
(Official) (Volume prev day)

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1451.0-1451.5	1474.5-1475.0	1003875
Lead (£/tonne)	281.25-281.75	290.75-291.25	77300
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	993.50-994.00	1012.0-1013.0	327675
Tin ($/tonne)	5655.0-5658.0	5717.0-5718.0	5995
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1161.0-1161.5	1182.0-1182.5	1004250
Nickel ($/tonne)	5885.0-5890.0	5940.0-5945.0	46014



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Investing in public interest



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

Self-regulation of the investment industry does not have many friends. They are getting fewer by the day. The Consumers' Association today calls for the system to be replaced with statutory investor protection. A Justice report this week said that the regulatory system was unsatisfactory and promises small investors more than it can deliver.

These criticisms are added to those of Mick Newmarch, the chief executive of the Pru, Britain's largest insurer, who last autumn called for a statutory system, and a long list of investors who feel they have been let down. The industry is beginning to listen and senior executives in investment houses will privately admit that they could live with a body that is not run by the industry to regulate its activities. These are, of course, from the companies that have not been the subject of disciplinary procedures and have not brought the industry into disrepute.

They accept that all has not been well and that confidence in their salesmen and their products is at a low ebb. It does not matter that the companies being fined now for misselling and failing to control their tied agents were running amok two or three years ago. The harm was done once the public perceived that under self-regulation many firms appeared to believe they could ignore the new rules and carry on as they always had.

Too often, the regulators found that months or even a year after a visit and a long list of corrective action had been issued too few of the items had been dealt with.

The Consumers' Association accepts that the existing regime has improved some aspects of investor protection. It has brought in an investors' compensation scheme, which has paid out more than £100 million, mostly for bad advice rather than fraud. However, there is still the question of churning. Every week we hear of one respectable financial institution or another whose agent has suggested that a perfectly good policy should be surrendered and a new one bought. One salesman even tried to persuade his niece to cash in a policy for one with his company.

The Consumers' Association estimates that surrenders in the first year cost consumers about £250 million a year. Most of those people should never have bought the policy in the first place or should have changed their minds when the cooling off notice arrived. Most of them will have been unaware of their right to cancel, with no financial penalty, within 14 days of receipt of that notice.

It is easy for the industry to say that they should read every page of small print sent to them. Most customers only want to read what is relevant and new and cannot find it in the pages of information. If they had a notice on the front page telling them they still had time to change their minds at no cost, that really would give them a cooling off time and prevent expensive mistakes being made.

Too many people have an interest in customers being left in the dark. If companies want to avoid statutory regulation in the long run, they need to adopt the half-way stage of a regulator run by a majority of public interest members.

Open agents

The phones should be red hot at the Securities and Investments Board's central register next week. For the first time in the five-year history of the present system of investor protection, there is an easy way of checking whether some company agents are really what they claim to be. The SIB has added 10,000 names of tied agents trading under their own name or corporate names, of building society or estate agent chains, for example, to its register along with the name of the company whose policies they are allowed to sell. Others will soon be added. Unfortunately, as SIB admits, the success of the central register depends on companies giving information about their appointed representatives to their regulator. Past experience has shown how little control some companies have over their agents, even to the extent of knowing what they are selling. The confusion in people's minds over the difference between tied agents, selling one company's policies, and independent financial advisers, selling policies from a range of companies, has helped unscrupulous agents to prosper. There is also a high turnover of agents.

Regulators must ensure companies update lists of members regularly. They should also move towards listing names of all company salesmen on the register, including those who are salesmen working directly for a firm and so not centrally listed. Such a list already exists, with more than 100,000 names. There is no reason to force investors to ring companies direct for information on some agents while information on others is publicly available.

When keeping your own company pays rewards

Hundreds of one-man firms are saving their directors from hefty tax bills, Lindsay Cook finds

THE news this week that John Birt, the director-general of the BBC is to become an employee of the organisation after years of running a company with his wife has caused many to question whether they would benefit from a similar device.

Hundreds of one-person companies are saving their directors from hefty tax bills, according to one London firm of accountants. Many other high-income earners enjoy a much higher standard of living thanks to the kind tax treatment of their companies. Hundreds of thousands of self employed set items against tax that employees in similar jobs could never get away with.

David Rothenberg, of Blick Rothenberg, the chartered accountant, said: "There are a surprising number of one-man companies included in annual reports of public companies. They are not only in the entertainment industry. It is across the board. Hundreds of directors are paid through an entity, consultancy arrangement or through their own companies."

In some cases, the company concerned has two directors, the husband and wife. Part of the company's income is paid to the person "employed" and any profit is taxed at the corporation tax rate of 25 per cent instead of the higher rate for income tax of 40 per cent. However, the other director can receive dividends, even though he or she does no work for the company and use his or her own personal tax allowance to set against these.

There will also be no national insurance contributions on the dividend income. Some companies are owned by non-working wives who receive all the dividends. However, the company will have to pay both the employers' and employees' NI contributions of the person to whom it pays a salary.

The company can also decide what expenses it incurs in the course of its business. If its director is a weather forecaster on television, it may decide to buy £10,000 of clothes. These are allowable for the company and while they are taxable for its director, it is on 20 per cent of their cost a year. This for a higher rate taxpayer would work out at £800 a year. However, if he or she decided after two years they were out of fashion and binned them, then the Revenue accepts that no further income tax should be paid on the benefit. The director pays £1,600 of tax for £10,000 worth of clothes. If, however, he or she wants to buy the clothes at a second-hand value after two years tax will be charged at the full cost, less the second-hand price.



From company man to corporation employee: John Birt

While a company has to establish only that it spent money "wholly and exclusively" for the business, employees have to prove any expenditure was "wholly, exclusively and necessarily" for their employment. This makes it impossible for staffers to buy glamorous clothes and set them against tax. A self-employed person or the director of a one-man company could buy a television or video recorder for work as an actor and set it against tax. An employee would find it very difficult to have such equipment allowed against tax unless it was in a study or office. If the owner of the one-man company has more than one directorship he or she can charge all travel to and from the second and subsequent directorships.

Loughlin Hickey, tax partner at KPMG Peat Marwick, said that in the 1980s, companies had commonly provided homes for directors. They had sometimes been charged little or no rent and had the option to buy the properties after say, five years, at the original price. When prices were rising, this was a benefit. But uproar over Marks and Spencer using such a scheme meant that others stopped to prevent embarrassment.

While hundreds of thousands of people are taxed under schedule D, their number is falling. The Revenue has been deciding arbitrarily which positions in organisations were under schedule E, but a landmark victory by a vision mixer last year in the High Court will make their progress slightly more difficult. The person concerned was used by a large number of firms and could by no stretch of the imagination be an employee of all of them.

Actors who are new to the profession are regarded as employees for theatre work. Old stagers can keep their schedule D allowances for pan stick and elocution lessons. However, for films and television commercials they are self-employed and can set items wholly and exclusively bought for their work against tax.

Those who own firms have freedom to spend the income on whatever they choose. Currently, a director can decide to buy a Rolls Royce for his company car and pay a fraction of its running costs in tax each year. It is expected that the Budget will announce that company cars will be charged for income tax at their value and not according to scale charges. This could be implemented next year.

A company can also decide that its directors will always fly Concorde. While on business, a director might want his or her spouse to attend social functions and act as host or hostess. The Revenue would not allow the company to set the cost of both against tax unless the employee was ill and needed nursing or the partner was involved in the business.

Some companies have paid employees bonuses in the form of vouchers or gold or diamonds held offshore. By doing this, millions of pounds of employers' NI contributions are avoided. Many accountants believe such schemes will be outlawed in the Budget.

For every device that is closed, tax advisers find another way of saving their clients' money. If all else fails, they can recommend departure from these shores and the hasty disposal of any assets which would be liable to capital gains tax.

Pension top-ups can be tax-efficient for redundant employees

SOME employers in the past have made generous top-ups to company pension schemes for highly paid employees who are leaving the company. They welcome the opportunity this offers for profits to roll up tax free in the pension fund (Sara McConnell writes). Advisers say it could pay some other redundant employees to ask for a similar arrangement.

The Burton Group realised the tax advantages of pension investments when it offered Sir Ralph Halpern, its outgoing chairman, an annual pension of £456,000 as part of his severance package of nearly £2 million. Making a contribution to the pension fund as part of the pay-off is tax efficient for the employer as the company can write it off as a business expense. The employee would normally receive a tax-free lump sum as well as a taxable annual pension.

Employers have more flexibility under Inland Revenue rules to put money into a scheme on behalf of their soon-to-be former employee and, in some cases, bend the rules alarmingly. In one case, highlighted by the National Audit Office at the end of 1991, a company contributed £300,000 to the pension schemes of two directors retiring on the same day, who immediately commuted their pensions for a tax-free lump sum of £150,000 each.



Pension investments: Sir Ralph Halpern benefited

Employees topping up their company pension schemes on their own behalf have to make sure they do not breach Revenue ceilings for tax relief. They are allowed to put only a maximum of 15 per cent of their earnings into a company pension. This includes any contributions from the employer and any extra payments through an additional voluntary contribution (AVC). Since 1989, the maximum salary employees can use to calculate benefits has been capped at £75,000. Employees using some of a pay-off to fund a personal pension also have limits of between 17.5 per cent and 40 per cent, depending on age.

However, Moira Elms, head of personal finance at Coopers & Lybrand, accountants, said people made redundant had a difficult balancing act. "Most people do not know what they are going to do. They may get a generous job very quickly and they could end up overfunded in their pension." On the other hand, she said: "A redundancy payment is not a windfall. It is not a capital sum from heaven. If you get sorted out quickly, that is when it becomes a windfall." A difficulty for employees wanting to use a pay-off to fund contributions is that they must do so while they are still an employee, to qualify for the tax breaks. Pensions can only be funded from earnings from employment.

Any redundancy money received by the employee and used to fund a pension will be locked away until retirement, Kean Seager, managing director of Whitechurch Securities, the independent financial adviser, said.

The first £30,000 of any redundancy pay-off is tax free as long as the Revenue agrees it is genuine redundancy money and not early retirement. However, the over 50s are finding it more difficult to persuade the taxman that they have been made redundant rather than taken early retirement. It is an important distinction—a retirement pay-off is taxed as income.

Russ Stanfield, partner at Price Waterhouse, the accountant, said: "The Revenue is having a closer look at over 50s than at under 50s and they are challenging people more than they used to."

Big mortgage handouts to stop

BY SARA MCCONNELL

PEOPLE falling on hard times will soon cease to receive state help with mortgage loans above £150,000. An estimated 10,000 borrowers have loans of more than that amount, the Council of Mortgage Lenders said this week.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, has acted to stop unemployed people with large loans receiving benefits to cover their mortgage interest. No starting date has been set for the clampdown, but it is expected that regulations will be laid before Parliament after the Easter recess, limiting help with payments to mortgages of £150,000 or less.

That will fall to £125,000 in 1994 and will then be reviewed regularly. The changes will apply only to applications for state help made after the new rules are implemented.

They follow publicity given to the cases of two businessmen, Trevor Deaves and Peter Julien, who were receiving several thousands of pounds a month from the social security department.

The department said about 1,500 people were claiming income support for mortgages of more than £150,000 and 3,000 for loans above £125,000. Mr Deaves lost his £400,000 job as chairman of MI Group, an insurance company, two years ago. Last year, it emerged that weekly payments of £1,833 on his £832,500 mortgage were being met by the state.

In 1991, Peter Julien, an unemployed interior designer, claimed £1,784 a week from social security to pay his £630,000 mortgage with the Town & Country building society. He made only two payments before claiming. The Juliens received £32,000 in social security help over six months before the house was possessed by the lender.

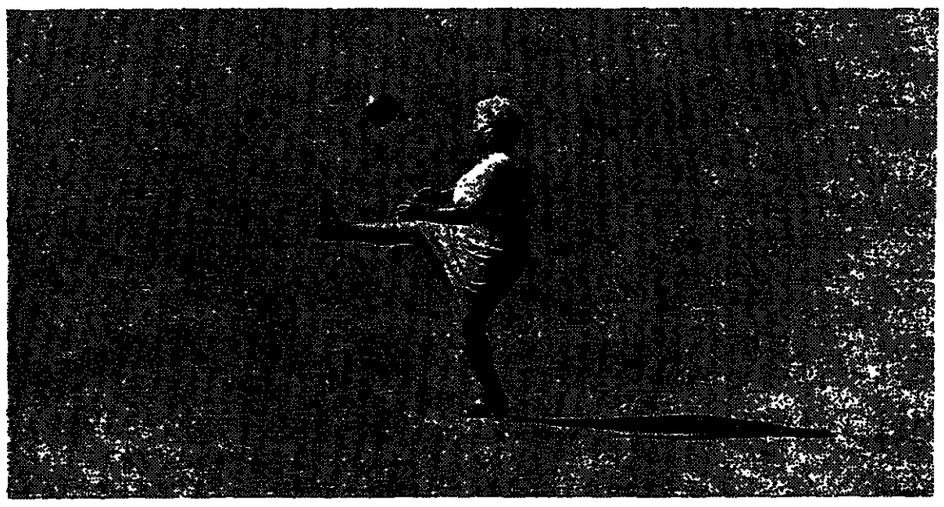
People qualify for income support if they have capital of less than £8,000 and have not paid enough national insurance contributions to qualify for unemployment benefit. Their mortgage interest may be paid as part of their income support but only if the social security department decides that the house is not too large for the family and is not in an unreasonably expensive area, and only if the outgoings are no higher than those on suitable alternative property in the same area.

Half the interest is paid for the first 16 weeks in which income support is claimed. After that, the interest is normally paid in full. Even if restrictions are imposed on payments after six months, the social security department should not restrict payments before then, provided it is satisfied that borrowers could afford their mortgages when they were taken out. In the Juliens' case, the commissioner ruled that social security payments should continue for six months because the family could afford the loan at the beginning.

The Woolwich, which has 2,500 people with mortgages of more than £150,000, said that at the current variable rate of 7.99 per cent, repayments on the interest portion of a £150,000 endowment mortgage were £948.75 a month. The state will not pay anything off the capital, which includes endowment premiums.

The monthly cost of a £150,000 repayment mortgage, which includes an element of capital, is £1,120. Capital repaid at the beginning of a loan is negligible, however, so the social security department may not bother to separate income from capital for a recent borrower.

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ALWAYS ON CALL NATIONWIDE

Glittering funds do not guarantee golden future

By Liz Dolan

UNIT trust performance tables have suddenly acquired a golden hue. Over the past few months, gold mining funds have started to emerge from the gloom that has engulfed them for years.

Figures from Micropal, the unit trust analyst, show that the top three performers in February were gold trusts. In one month, Mercury Gold & General has grown 24.44 per cent, Waverley Australasian Gold 20.79 per cent and Thornton Gold & Natural Resources 20.08 per cent. Since September 1 last year, Waverley has posted a gain of 33.06 per cent, Thornton 43.18 per cent and Mercury 35.65 per cent.

However, a glistering short-term rise does not guarantee a golden future for shareholders. Over the past year, for example, Waverley under-performed all but 21 of the 925 trusts in the Micropal table, despite its recent spurt.

Many analysts are wary about the state of the UK stock market. They have given a warning that structural imbalances in the country's economy are likely to put the brakes on any long-term advances in share prices. Before the 1987 crash, gold stocks were bubbling. When the market fell, they were among the first to lose their shine.

Julian Baring, manager of the Mercury Trust, would take issue with this analysis. He says strong performance of gold-based trusts over the past six months is a sign that the market is beginning to turn in their favour. However, he admits that throughout the period, unit holders have been queuing to move their battered funds to safer havens. Those who bought into Thornton and Waverley before October 1987, are still nursing losses of 45.78 and 82.18 per cent respectively, despite recent gains.



Liquid asset: a panner searches for golden returns

Mercury, which was launched in April 1988, is 44.63 per cent higher than when it started. Over the same period, Thornton has added 14.71 per cent, but Waverley has lost 37.71 per cent.

Other gold trusts in February's top 25 included Providence Capitol Gold Trust (10), M&G Gold and General (12) and N M Gold (15). Most of the other top performers tend to be invested in the Far East, with Hong Kong a particular hot spot. Many have outperformed over the past year. Mr Baring sees a link: "The Chinese are definitely the biggest users of gold, and China is one of the world's fastest growing economies."

The Taiwanese save 29 per cent of their salaries, and much of that is invested in gold, he says. Last year, Taiwan imported 111 tonnes of gold, and China 400 tonnes. Ten years earlier, Taiwan was importing seven tonnes a year, and China "a negligible amount".

In Australia, interest rates are expected to fall after the general election this month. All things being equal, this should be good news for gold producers. However, things are not necessarily equal. The gold market is a particularly difficult one to read, City analysts say. Global demand is widely tipped to outstrip supply over the next few years, but any benefits could be offset by political turmoil, currency fluctuations or by central banks off-loading huge supplies of gold on to the market.

Jon Beigtheil, of James Capel, says: "Being a gold analyst can be a rather frustrating occupation. You may beaver away for months on a model updating individual mine production, build it up to a world total, accurate to within 5,000 ounces, only to switch on your Reuters screen and discover that the Dutch Central Bank has dumped the equivalent of 20 per cent of annual mine supply on the market."

NatWest offers full Saturday service

NATIONAL Westminster Bank is to offer a complete banking service on Saturdays from March 27 (Liz Dolan writes). Customers in 220 of its branches around the country will be able to cash cheques over the counter, and pay up to £2,000 into their accounts. The decision follows a successful pilot study over the past year in North-East England during which Saturday business increased by 20 per cent.

Barclays already operates a counter service in 408 branches, but these are only open for two and a half hours until noon. NatWest will be open for six hours until 3.30pm. The Midland offers a limited Saturday service in 334 branches but no counter staff are available.

Lloyds opens 180 branches, 10 per cent of its network, between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Cash transactions are by machine only, but staff are also available to discuss mortgages, personal loans, overdrafts and other such matters. The bank is also discussing with staff the possibility of closing at 5.30pm during the week, rather than 4.30pm. NatWest's existing Saturday service is similar to Lloyds but, it says, this does not meet the needs of many of its customers.

Barclays was the first bank to reopen on Saturday in 1982 in the wake of competition from the building societies. NatWest and Lloyds followed three years later, and Midland took the plunge in November 1987. In 1990, Abbey National extended Saturday opening hours to 4pm at a third of its branches.

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Barclaycard to start sending complete records of cardholders to three reference agencies

Setting out credit files in white and black

By Margaret Dibben



BARCLAYCARD is about to start sending the complete records of credit card holders to three credit reference agencies: CNN, Equifax and Infolink. The information will be available to other organisations, such as retailers, which subscribe to the reference agencies and to other members of a family when someone asks to see his or her own files.

At present, Barclaycard, like the other banks and most credit card companies, will send only "black" information to reference agencies. Customers' records become "black" if they are in default, having not paid for five or six months. Until then, it is "white" information.

Other lenders, including stores and mail order companies, already contribute all customers' details, "white" and "black", to the agencies. But most banks have refused to do so, saying that it conflicts with customer confidentiality.

The banks' code of conduct says that they must not disclose any details of customers' accounts to third parties except where provided for in law or the customer has given express consent. Barclaycard has had to change its application forms and only cardholders who have completed one since last December will have their details placed on reference agency files. Barclaycard's other eight million customers will not be affected by the change.

Barclaycard will begin sharing "white" information from the middle of next year. Customers who sign the new application form should see a statement saying: "I agree that you may share information about my Barclaycard through licensed credit reference agencies. Shared information from these reference agencies is used only to make lending decisions and to prevent fraud."

Bob Potts, Barclaycard's managing director, explained: "What we are doing is exactly in line with the code of conduct. We will only pass on information if customers have given us consent."

For the past three years, Co-operative Bank has, with customers' consent, shared "white" information on its credit card accounts. Girobank has always contributed "white" information on credit card holders and since October, 1991, has forwarded such information on current account customers as well.

At the time of the change, customers were given the option of having their details removed from the credit reference agency file and 2 to 3 per cent did so. New customers sign a consent form. Those who refuse to sign, may still be taken on.

Mr Potts does not expect an adverse reaction from card holders. He said: "When we did our market research, we had a lot of support from customers, particularly young people, and a very high proportion of people thought we already did it."

"White" information shows the customer's track record of repaying loans and any other commitments. When people are over-committed it usually takes two or three years for the problem to come into the open. Mr Potts said: "On forms we ask for some information about existing loans and we expect people to fill them in honestly, but we don't ask about all their other commitments. Sharing 'white' information will help us make better lending decisions."

"White" information includes the cardholder's name and address, type of account, credit limit and outstanding balance at the end of the month.

The code number "0" means the account is up to date in accordance with the agreement, which could mean that just the 5 per cent minimum is paid off. Lenders can choose whether to notify the agency when accounts fall one month in arrears or wait for two or three months' of missed payments.

Existing practice among credit reference agencies varies, but from July 31, a Data Protection Enforcement Notice takes effect so that when credit reference agencies send out information, whether to lenders or to individuals wanting to see their own files, they will include any "white" information they hold on other family members, including anyone at the same address.

Ian Lindsey, executive director of Save & Prosper, which runs the Robert Fleming credit card, said: "Honest customers are subsidising the dishonest by 3 per cent a year. Interest rates could come down by 0.25 per cent. I think all lenders should be required to supply 'white' information but this should go to a central register which should be an agency of the Bank of England rather than a commercial organisation."

Fraud cut by special delivery of cards

By Robin Young

NEARLY 40 per cent of all credit cards are delivered by means other than the normal post to cut down on fraud. Security firms are hired to deliver the cards; at private houses, the card are put through the letterbox, while at flats, delivery is direct to the cardholder. Some customers are asked to collect their cards from their bank branch.

As a result, the average monthly fraud losses from cards being intercepted or diverted before they reach their intended user fell by almost a third from a peak of £3 million. Royal Mail has also established a database to identify fraud-prone localities, which contributed to a 5 per cent drop in fraud last year.

Of all retail card transactions, 16 per cent are now subject to authorisation, where the card company is telephoned to check that the purchase is within the credit limit of the customer and that the card has not been reported stolen. In sectors more prone to attempted fraud, that proportion rises to nearly half.

Of the 80 million plastic cards in circulation in Britain, more than 5,000 went missing every day last year, and the ensuing plastic card frauds cost £5 a second. The £165 million lost last year was £600,000 down on 1991.

Banks and building societies will spend more than £2 million this year on the campaign to reduce card fraud.



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Extended register leaves agents no place to hide

By Sara McConnell

For the first time, investors will be able to identify a large number of the appointed representatives of firms authorised by the Securities and Investments Board

AN ESTIMATED 10,000 names and details of insurance company and unit trust agents have been added to the central register run by the Securities and Investments Board, which is available to the public.

For the first time, investors approached by company agents will be able to check whether they are authorised to sell the investments they are offering. Previously, company agents authorised to sell only the policies of one company were not listed on the central register, although investors are more likely to have contact with such an agent, for example an estate agent or building society, than with an independent financial adviser, who gives advice on policies from different companies.

The 10,000 new names on the register will be those of intermediaries who trade in their own or a corporate name. These could be self employed salespeople or high street institutions that are agents of a single company.

Firms that operate as part of a network, under the umbrella of a company regulated by the Financial Intermediaries, managers and brokers association (Fimbra), will also be listed if they trade under their own name or a corporate name. Some networks have as many as 700 firms but, previously, none of these was listed individually. However, salespeople who do not trade in their own name but simply operate for a single company will not be listed. Investors have to ask the company for details of these people.

Apart from being able to check that an appointed representative is the agent of a specific company, investors will be able to identify all appointed representatives of any authorised firm.

SIB said the register would also show a firm's regulatory history. It said this should make it easier for investors to spot "bed-hopping firms", that is firms that may have fallen foul of one regulator and moved to another to escape notice. Firms that have been publicly suspended will be marked on the register but private investigations and individual disciplinary histories will not appear.

The regulator said: "The accuracy of this additional information is highly dependent on the timely reporting of changes by the authorised firms to their regulator, especially as the appointed representative population has been subject to rapid change."

Investors can telephone the special central register enquiry number, 071 929 3652, or have access to it through Prestel or Telecom Gold services. It is available in public libraries and Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

During the past year, there have been 100,000 calls to the register. It has received more than 1 million since the present regulatory regime started in 1988.



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Selling repossessions in bulk

By Sara McConnell

BUILDING societies and banks are poised to parcel up more repossessions that prove difficult to sell and offer them to investors through business expansion schemes next week.

Issues totalling more than £100 million are set to open, starting on Monday with the National Westminster Bank, which has entered the BES market for the first time. Issues from the Portman, Leeds Permanent, National & Provincial and Britannia building societies will follow.

Banks and building societies see the BES market as a good way of offloading thousands of properties they have repossessed but are unable to sell. Higher rate taxpayers (the only people eligible) who can invest up to £40,000 a year in the shares of BES companies and get tax relief at their highest marginal rate, have also shown enthusiasm by taking up issues from the Bradford and Bingley and Barclays bank within hours of their opening.

The main reason for this is that new property-based BES issues are almost all offering a "loan-back" deal. This removes the drawback of having to be tied in for five years in order to qualify for the tax break. Instead, investors are guaranteed a loan secured against their shares in the BES company by the building society or bank after six months at the earliest. Investors can normally get a loan of 74p for each pound invested.

On top of that, they add their tax relief, which they should receive back from the Inland Revenue in a lump sum. For example, a higher rate taxpayer investing £10,000 could, after six months, apply for a loan of 74p for every pound. On top of that £7,400, he or she will receive £4,000 of tax relief. Loans are non status and cannot be clawed back, either by the lender or by a liquidator should the BES company fail.

Technically, the investor still owns the shares and can benefit from any capital growth if the housing market picks up and the properties appreciate in value. The shares also pay back the loan and interest accrued on it after five years. Loan-back schemes are being marketed with some urgency as they could be abolished in the Budget, while all business expansion schemes are due to end on December 31 this year.

The attractiveness of loan-backs relies on a speedy payment of tax relief from the Inland Revenue, said Richard Burn, of *BESt Investment*, the specialist magazine.

The schemes being launched follow a similar pattern. Typically, properties are bought by the BES company with investors' funds and are let to tenants over the next five years. The building societies, banks or other initial buyers, on the investors' behalf, then buy back the properties at the end of the five years, when the BES company is wound up, or sell them on the open market.

Some schemes guarantee to pay a certain price for shares but more commonly the only guarantee offered is the loan-back. NatWest's £25 million issue, on sale from Monday, is one of a minority that does offer a guaranteed exit. Investors are guaranteed an exit price of £1.08 by NatWest for every pound invested after five years. This will pay off any loan-back and interest on a loan. After six months, they can take a loan-back of 74 per cent of their investment. Most of the properties bought by NatWest's specially established companies will be relocation homes bought for the bank's middle management that the bank has not been able to sell. There will also be repossessions. If the value of shares rises to £2 or more per share, investors will get 50 per cent of any gain.

Investors in the four building society issues launched this week will get a 50 per cent share in any growth over £1.23 per share. Three issues are sponsored by Johnson Fry. The largest is the Leeds at £50 million, to be launched on Tuesday, along with a £25 million issue from the National & Provincial. The Portman's issue of £15 million is available today. A fourth issue, of £50 million from the Britannia building society, is sponsored by Neill Clark. Like the Johnson Fry schemes, there is no guaranteed exit level but there is a loan back facility.

Property BES schemes have been heavily marketed, but others, with businesses more akin to the small business start-ups BES was originally meant to fund, are also launching issues. One is the Black Sheep Brewery, started by Paul Theakston. The brewery has been producing Black Sheep Ale in Masham, North Yorkshire, since last year. It is now offering a further 535,714 shares at 140p each, hoping to raise £450,000 by April. But the company gives warning that shares in the brewery will be unquoted.



Hail ale: Paul Theakston with the brewer's black sheep

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Channon calls for mortgage regulation

By Paul Nuki

PAUL Channon, former trade secretary, has signed a parliamentary motion criticising the government's handling of the financial services industry and calling for mortgages to be brought within the terms of the Financial Services Act.

At present, only the marketing of products with an investment element such as endowment savings plans, pension policies and unit trusts are regulated under the Financial Services Act. Mortgage lenders and mortgage advisers, in contrast, need not belong to any specific regulatory watchdog.

Anyone can set up shop and arrange or advise on loans over £15,000 without qualification, authorisation or monitoring. Those dealing in sums below £15,000 need a Consumer Credit Licence, but these are relatively easy to obtain and may give the illusion of providing borrowers with more protection than they actually afford.

Mr Channon, Conservative MP for Southend West, joined MPs from all parties in laying down the early day motion and is thought to have been prompted into action by the spate of home income plan scandals.

The sale of these hybrid mortgage and investment products in the late 1980s involved people re-mortgaging their homes to provide additional capital and income. As a result, thousands of mainly elderly people were plunged into financial difficulties. Many now stand to lose their homes.

The motion, signed by six MPs including Mr Channon, calls on Parliament to recognise the "inadequacies of the present system of regulation of banks and building societies" and expresses "grave concern at the continual plight of elderly home income plan holders".

The motion then calls on the government to "ensure that mortgages are treated as investments for the purposes of the Financial Services Act."

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How to ensure your wordly goods go to friends and relatives rather than fill Treasury coffers

The will power to save money

By Tom Tickell

ANYONE concerned about the widening chasm between government receipts and spending can easily help: by ignoring advice to make a will and recommendations to think of inheritance-tax planning. The combination should ensure the Chancellor receives his full share of an estate, and that as little as possible is frittered away by the family.

Why make a will in the first place? Plenty of people know their spouse will receive everything. Reality is rather different. She (normally she, for husbands tend to die first) will receive all the personal possessions and the first £75,000 of the rest. She will also get the income (but not the capital) on half of whatever is left, assuming the couple have children.

The intestacy rules are rough and ready and will not suit everyone. Unmarried couples have no automatic right to money from the estate. They can take their case for a share to court. The really basic home-made will can ensure just as much chaos. One Yorkshire farmer once made a three-word will — "all to mother". For that was what he, and others, called his wife. Alas, he died young and his own mother demanded the money. That led to action, which ensured barristers and solicitors ended up with much of the money at stake.

For example, a husband, with a taxable estate worth £300,000, leaves everything to his wife, who happens to have assets of £300,000 herself. If she dies with an estate worth £450,000, the children, or whoever is due to inherit, may well have a tax bill for £120,000, assuming no other reliefs apply.

In tax terms, it makes more sense to leave funds to people with relatively few assets of their own.

Anyone who wants to leave as little as possible to the state can give away money knowing there will never be a tax bill if they do. Any master of failure will have the intention, but always keep it on the time-frame between next year and some time.

For the moment they will ignore the annual allowances. These allowances enable people to give away money, confident that inheritance tax will not apply, even if they drop dead the next day. The allowances include:

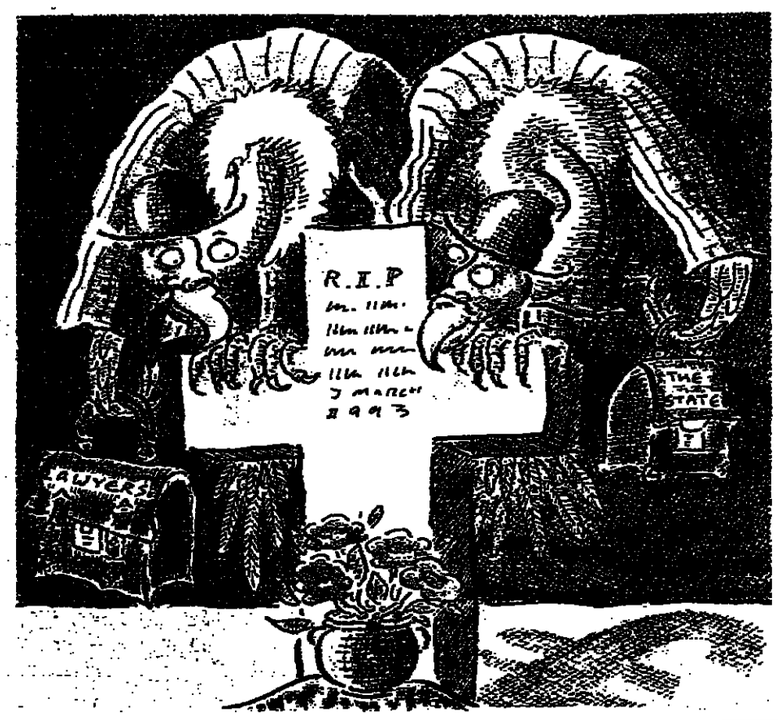
- Gifts of up to £5,000 to any one person.
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- Regular gifts made from your income (not capital), which do not affect your own standard of living. So much for the allowances, each with its conditions. Anyone who wants to be seriously generous has to hand over assets and make a point of surviving as long as possible.

But assume a will has been drafted by a solicitor, or a will form has been used and you have read the *Which Guide to Giving and Inheriting*, for instance, which sets out the pitfalls of DIY wills, and the way to ensure some of the estate is lost is to assume you will be too poor ever to worry about inheritance tax, and make no provision for it.

Admittedly, only one family in 20 now pays the tax. But that partly reflects the sharp fall in house prices, which have dropped by up to 30 per cent in some areas since the peak of the market. On present form, inheritance tax will not apply if the estate is worth less than £150,000. Small businesses and farms will not be included.

Any economic recovery could push plenty of people back into the inheritance tax classes — as indeed would any change in the law. The simple way to avoid inheritance tax is to leave everything to the spouse.

Masters of financial failure can do that, fondly believing they have deprived the state of tax. But if their widows or widowers have any assets of their own, such a move it will avoid tax now, only to ensure a bigger bill appears later.



Taxman offers choice to married couples

By Sara McConnell

FOR the first time this April, married couples will be able to allocate their extra allowance to whichever partner stands to benefit most, normally the higher earner. A wife will also be able to ask for half the allowance to be set against her tax bill without having to tell her husband she has done so.

Until now, the allowance has been paid automatically to the husband and set against his tax bill. Couples each qualify for a personal allowance, currently £3,445. In addition, they receive an allowance of £1,720 as a married couple. Those over 65 can still only transfer the basic £1,720 allowance.

Husbands who want to have the whole allowance allocated to their wives have to tell their tax inspector before April 5 and fill in form 18 in 30 days. Women who want to have half the allowance for themselves also have to fill in form 18.

If they miss the deadline, they will not be able to benefit retrospectively. Once a couple has elected to allocate the allowance in a certain way, this will continue until they tell the Revenue they want to change their election.

There are as yet no figures on how many would benefit from re-allocating the allowance, but the Revenue said there were 5.5 million tax-paying wives in 1992. In many households, the husband still pays tax at a higher rate than his wife. If this is so, it makes more sense for him to keep the allowance and reduce the total tax bill.

Couples where one partner is self-employed and the other works full time may also consider allocating the allowance to the full-time worker, thus benefiting as soon as the new tax year begins.

Self-employed people normally pay tax in two parts on January 1 and July 1 and would not benefit from the extra allowance until January 1 at the earliest. A leaflet, IR 80, Income Tax and Married Couples, from tax offices, explains the rules in detail.

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INTEREST RATE ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c:						
Typical	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	3.94	3.94	3.15	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	3.80	3.80	3.04	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	3.14	3.14	2.51	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	3.28	3.28	2.62	10,000-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland	3.94	3.94	3.15	10,000-100,000	1 mth	0742 528655
" " "	3.94	3.94	3.15	10,000-100,000	3 mth	0742 528655
NatWest	3.68	3.68	2.93	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" " "	3.47	3.47	2.78	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	3.48	3.54	2.83	2,500‡	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	1.88	1.89	1.51	2,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	0.38	0.38	0.30	500‡	none	071 626 8543
Citibank	5.40	5.54	4.43	2,000‡	none	0800 555664
Lloyds HICA	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000‡	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	1.50	1.50	1.20	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
NatWest Special Reserve	1.13	1.13	0.90	500‡	none	0800 200 400
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	1.50	1.51	1.21	2,000‡	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank HICA	1.88	1.88	1.50	2,000‡	none	071-800 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	0.75	0.75	0.60	50+	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
Bristol & West	5.70	5.70	4.56	50,000 min	Postal	——
Birmingham Mid	5.78	5.78	4.62	100,000 min	Postal	——
Northern Rock	5.29	5.29	4.23	40,000 min	30 day	——
Cheltenham & Gl	6.41	6.41	5.13	100,000 min	90 day	——
Leeds Permnt	5.81	5.81	4.65	100,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Nottingham Imp	6.00	6.00	4.80	50,000 min	Postal	——
Nottingham	5.85	5.85	4.68	50,000 min	30 day	——
Marsden	6.00	6.00	4.80	50,000 min	60 day	——
Scarborough	6.26	6.26	5.01	50,000 min	90 day	——
Universal	6.45	6.45	5.16	50,000 min	1 year	——
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c†	3.75	2.81	2.25	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	8.25	4.69	3.75	20-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	7.00	5.25	4.20	2,000-50,000	3 mth	0253 66151
6th Index Linkt§	3.25	3.25	3.25	100-5,000	8 day	091-386 4900
40th Issue Cert*	5.75	5.75	5.75	100-5,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plant	5.75	5.75	5.75	20-400/mth	14 day	091-386 4900
Children's Bond	7.85	7.85	7.85	25-1,000		
Gen Ext Retirt	3.75	3.75	3.75			
Capital Bond*	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-100,000	8 days	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
General Portfolio	5.20	5.20	4.42	50,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
General Portfolio	5.60	5.60	4.76	50,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
General Portfolio	6.20	6.20	5.27	50,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
General Portfolio	6.50	6.50	5.53	50,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5766
General Portfolio	6.80	6.80	5.78	50,000 min	5 yrs	for details

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Darlington	8.00	£3,240.00	28 days loss intst	£1	0325 487171
Dunfermline	8.00	£3,240.00	1mths notice+loss	£3,000	0383 721621
St Pancras	8.00	£3,240.00	£25+30days notice	£10	071 7942331
Manchester	8.00	£3,240.00		£50	061 8349465

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Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY

Losing tax relief in pursuit of retirement income

BY SARA MCCONNELL

SOME people making what they believe to be tax-efficient investments in personal pensions could find that, because they are also members of occupational schemes, their contributions are ineligible for tax relief.

Under Revenue rules, they are not allowed to have personal pensions apart from those sold to receive rebates from the state scheme.

Insurers believe problems will start to surface this July, when some of Britain's 10 million holders of personal pensions will be asked to certify that they are still eligible to pay contributions to those plans.

The first new-style personal pensions were sold on July 1, 1988 and the Inland Revenue made it clear that insurance companies would be expected to contact their policyholders every five years to check their continuing eligibility. Letters from some insurers have started to go out.

The self-employed, and employees who either choose not to join company schemes or are not eligible, can get tax relief at their highest marginal rates on contributions to personal pension schemes. Someone under 35 can put up to 17.5 per cent of net earnings into a scheme.

However, once a member of a company scheme, he or she cannot continue to contribute out of main income to a personal pension as well.

In some cases, salesmen who do not fully understand the Revenue's rules, or who deliberately ignore them to make sales, have sold personal pensions to people who do not qualify for them. The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) said salesmen should carry out "factfinds", to ascertain whether people already had pensions.

The insurance ombudsman expressed concern in his annual report that many factfinds were not completed. "It suggests," he said, "that in the push to produce a sale, important requirements and needs may be overlooked and an unsuitable product sold."

When the Revenue detects duplication, people will have to pay back any tax relief they have received and get their money refunded by providers.

Colin Hawtin, Lautro's head of policy, said there was "anecdotal evidence" that employees who were already members of company schemes had been sold personal pensions as well.



Hawtin: evidence

In such cases, it could take some time for the Revenue to realise what had happened.

Employees in non-contributory pension schemes might also believe, wrongly, that because they were not contributing, they could take out personal pensions as well. That was not permitted. But they could make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) to bring their total contribution up to the maximum 15 per cent of net earnings.

At least one company, Scottish Widows, has just started writing to planholders.

Legal & General will write to some planholders on May 1, enclosing "certificates of continuing eligibility". These will ask whether holders are members of company schemes. Certificates must be returned, even if people's situations have not changed.

Where no replies are received, the company will send out further reminder letters on June 1 and enlist brokers' help to contact people to whom they sold plans.

People who do not return certificates by September 1 will have their direct debits stopped, as the company is not allowed by law to accept further contributions. Policies will then be paid-up.

BRIEFINGS

PREMIUM Life has added new features to its investment bond to try to tap the growing demand for equity-based investments. At scheduled cashing-in times, or on the death of the investor, it guarantees to pay the highest value reached during the period of investment. The bond can be used to provide a regular income, capital growth or a mix. There is also a staggered investment option that "drip feeds" money into equity-linked funds and a facility enabling investors to draw regular income for between five and ten years. Premium Life says the options are designed to overcome the short-term volatility associated with equity investment.

☐ Lloyds Bank is trying to boost insurance business by offering four limited edition TVR Chimaera sports cars as prizes in a competition open to customers who agree to a review of their personal finances, or who buy qualifying products, such as buildings insurance or private medical cover. The four winners will watch a TVR compete in the Tuscan Challenge race.

☐ Cannon Lincoln is offering free accidental death cover, worth £25,000, for one year on all new, or increased, regular contributions pension plans where gross contributions exceed a certain level. The offer closes on April 13.

☐ Homeowners Friendly Society has published a 50-page guide for the retired, or those planning to retire. *Your Money In Retirement* answers financial questions and covers budgeting, tax, investment, pensions, health plans, special allowances and leisure.

☐ Shareholders in British Steel and Cable and Wireless may now exchange their shares for holdings in one of 14 investment trusts managed by Fleming Investment Trust Management. Fleming Investment will sell the shares for £7.50. The fee for buying the new shares is 1 per cent, to a £50 maximum.

☐ From April 20, all instructions and advice slips in Barclays' cash machines in Wales will appear in Welsh or English, as will printed mini-statements. Barclays is also planning to increase the number of machines in Wales. It says the move is in response to demand from Welsh customers. Alliance & Leicester's customers will be able to choose screen messages in English, French or Spanish when its 317-strong cash machine network starts accepting Visa cards on Monday.

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Retraction of government rebates makes Serps more lucrative

New life for state pensions

By Sara McConnell


ANGUS MEWSE

HUNDREDS of thousands of people, mostly in their forties, who have contracted out of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) will be told by their pension providers this month that they would be better off moving back into the state scheme.

After April, people opting out of Serps and investing the money in a personal pension scheme will no longer receive an extra 2 per cent from the government on top of their rebate from the social security department.

Instead, only those over 30 years old will receive a rebate, and this will be cut by half to 1 per cent. The rebate will also fall from 5.8 per cent to 4.7 per cent.

The government is in the process of winding down the Serps fund and is trying to encourage more people to make their own pension provision.

Nearly 5 million people have opted out of the state scheme since 1988, but rebates for the first five years of contracting out cost the government more than £9 billion. That has been only partly offset by more than £3 billion saved in the future.

Legal & General is planning to tell men aged over 45 and women aged over 40, earning £7,500 or more and already contracted out of Serps, that they could do better coming back into the state scheme after April.

Peter Timberlake, marketing manager at Legal & General, said: "This will be the first time people have been written to en masse." Men over 45 and women over 35 earning more than £9,500 who had not already contracted out should not consider doing so because they would be worse off outside Serps, said Mr Timberlake.

Those who have already started a personal pension to receive Serps rebates should not contract back in too soon because they will not recoup set-up charges on their private scheme.

The Prudential is telling men aged over 49 and women aged over 42 earning more than £8,500 to return to Serps after April. Steve Bee, the Pru's manager (pensions technical support), said that men aged over 40 and women aged over 30 who have not already come out of Serps should not do so after April.

The company wrote to about 200,000 policyholders over 30 contracted out of the state scheme last year, when the government announced reduced levels of rebate set until 1996.

It will be writing to some of them again to advise them to contract back in. This will be the first time the company has advised people to move back into Serps.

Mr Bee said: "We advised people at the beginning to stay out of Serps for five years. The people we now advise to go back in will be the first people we put back into Serps."

However, it could pay some people to stay out of Serps until 1996. The government has signalled its intention to introduce age-related rebates in four years' time. These would be more generous to older people opting out of the state scheme and less so to the under 40s.

Pension providers suggest that some people could come back into Serps for four years only to find that they would be better off opting out again in 1996.

Depending on the attitudes of different providers, this could mean another heavy set of upfront charges to set up a new personal pension.

Mr Timberlake said: "Providers should be flexible but people may have to pay new upfront charges." Changing to a new pension provider is almost certain to involve more set-up charges.

Those wanting to go back into the state scheme for the 1992-3 tax year have to elect to do so before April 5 this year. Others wanting to return to Serps in the 1993-4 tax year have until April 5 next year to fill in the relevant forms.

April 5 this year is also the deadline for electing to make extra pension contributions to use up unclaimed tax relief from previous tax years. Under Inland Revenue rules, people can carry forward unused tax relief from the six previous tax years.

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Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Signed _____

*Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax or, subject to the required certification, gross. Where tax deducted exceeds the investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. Rates may vary. Once this account ceases to be on offer, no further investment can be made in the account until the two year guarantee period ends. One withdrawal of up to £5,000 will be allowed without notice or penalty and other withdrawals may be made at 90 days' notice or immediately subject to the loss of 90 days' interest. If any withdrawal takes the balance below £10,000, our Ordinary Share rate will apply. After the guarantee period of two years ends, withdrawals may be made without notice or penalty. All withdrawals subject to normal branch limits of £250 in cash and £100,000 by cheque. Full terms and conditions available on request from any Woolwich branch. Woolwich Building Society, Corporate HQ, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RR.

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LETTERS

Cleaning up in life assurance

From Mr R. J. Watson

Sir, I was appalled that Mr Iain Polley (February 27) feels there is "a great deal of exaggerated emphasis on initial commission in the media".

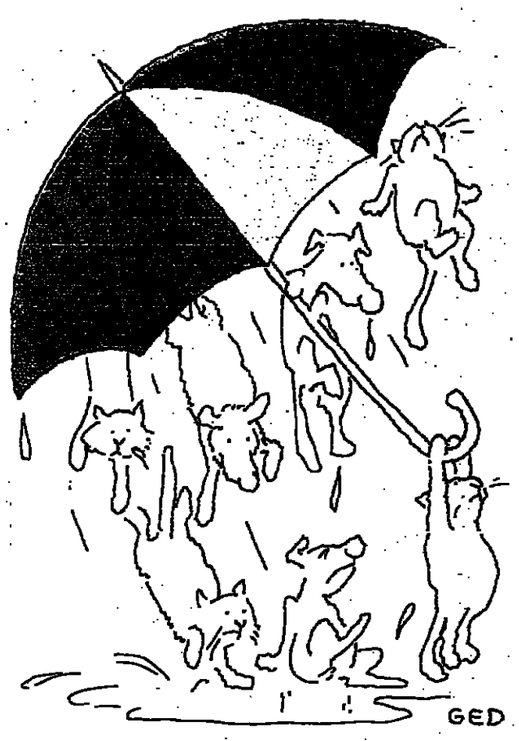
As a result of the Financial Services Act, I have discovered the following. In 1980, I "invested" £5,000 in a pension plan — the broker took £2,659 commission (53 per cent). In 1981, I increased the contribution by £5,000 — the broker took £2,800 commission (56 per cent). In 1983, I increased the contribution by £10,000 — the broker took £4,800 commission (48 per cent). The policy (from a major life office) *claimed "flexibility and complete security".*

Can Mr Polley deny that over 60 per cent of my £20,000 "invested" will be lost through charges? Can he deny that claims against Fimbra have been so great that it has been pushed to the brink of bankruptcy?

Why are one-third of all savings and pension plans *surrendered within two years?* Why is it that Nottingham Business School estimates that consumers are losing over £200 million per year through what the industry euphemistically calls early surrender? Why over the past four years have rules that would have genuinely protected the customer and forced disclosure of costs been shelved? Why does *he think Mick Newmarch,* chief executive of the Prudential, has declared that "self regulation is an experiment that has failed"?

Every two years, consumers suffer a loss equal to the Maxwell scandal. It is called "front-end loaded commission". Three cheers for Mr Buckingham's letter (February 20)! I urge all readers of *The Times* who are sickened by their experience to write to their MPs. When is Parliament going to clean up the life assurance industry?

Yours faithfully,
R. J. WATSON MBA,
Former managing director,
Watson's Wines
and Spirits Ltd,
2 Ampton Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham.



At odds with Legal & General's rate of return

From Mr A. J. Sinfield

Sir, I read with interest your article "Soldiering on for a return of £400" (February 27). In common with Brigadier Nigel Sturt, I am less than impressed with the return on investments with the Legal & General. Whilst financial director of Hi Fi Markets Plc, I paid into an executive pension plan the amount of £40,000 in May 1988. Under the terms of the plan, an "unsecured loan" back to the company of £22,000 was made.

Hi Fi Markets Plc went into receivership in August 1990 and Legal & General were duly informed (under the terms of the loan this became immediately repayable in the event the company went into receivership). In fact, Legal & General continued to accrue interest on the loan until October 1991, and £6,374.41 interest was added to the capital of £22,000 and deducted from my investment.

Additionally, Legal & General "charged" an early encashment penalty of £13,660.39 to my account, thereby deducting in total £42,034.80. Despite numerous letters to Legal & General and seeking the advice of Lautro and the Insurance Ombudsman I have been unable to obtain any movement from Legal & General on the scale of charges levied, in particular the "early" encashment penalty.

Can you offer any advice as to how I can pursue my fight against Legal & General?

I am especially concerned that the Inland Revenue's rules appear to have been breached, in that only 50 per cent of the fund value can be "loaned"; given the interest charged and penalty, this figure is vastly exceeded. Any assistance or advice you could offer would be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. SINFIELD,
57 Marten Drive,
Gallows Hill,
Hertford, Herts.

Very much ado about nothing

From Mrs Eileen J. Sorrell

Sir, I was interested in your article "Taking the official route becomes a less taxing ordeal" (February 20), as the new style tax service does not seem to have reached Cornwall.

On April 7 last year, I sent the local IR office a full and detailed statement of my income in the financial year just ended, together with vouchers for all my dividends and an estimate of what refund of income tax I thought was due — £335. I very soon (April 22) received a cheque for £00 with a quite unintelligible explanation of how that amount was derived; I assumed that they knew what they were doing and accepted their estimate.

Early in September, with no reference to previous dealings, I received a statement on which all my income was "estimated" and a demand for £547. I pointed out that I had made a full return of my "actual" income two days after the end of the financial year and had received a repayment of tax. A few days later, a letter said that my tax affairs had been reviewed, they agree my estimate of the refund due, and would I refund the overpayment (£265). This I did, not without some irritation, by return. But the next day I received, without any covering letter, another unintelligible assessment of my income and a demand for £70. I exploded at this and wrote personally to the Inspector of Taxes. This led, eventually, to a grand apology from one of his staff and, a few days later, to a demand for £0.00.

Yours faithfully,
EILEEN J. SORRELL,
Ranelagh,
Stewarts Road,
Week St Mary,
Holsworthy, Devon.

Credit when due

From J. L. Burns

Sir, You have had many letters complaining of the meanness of credit card companies to impose charges and of their insensitivity towards small debts. In that context my recent experience with Barclaycard Visa is perhaps interesting.

I pay my accounts using my bank's electronic telephone facility. In December last, I believed I had sent Barclaycard full payment of my Visa account. On receiving my January account it was obvious that I had paid nothing. Investigation showed I had, in fact, ordered the money to go to Marks & Spencer (who quickly repaid it although I had an outstanding account with them). The Barclaycard account for January correctly charged me £16.77 interest. On paying and explaining to Barclaycard, they are refunding the interest.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. BURNS,
Old Farm Cottage,
Alderley,
Wotton-Under-Edge,
Gloucestershire.

Impersonal reply

From the Reverend David Mason

Sir, I was intrigued to read the article by Sara McConnell (February 27) and, in particular her description of the experiences of Roger de Vere and his wife Elizabeth with regard to Aetna Higher Income Portfolio Pep.

The same thing happened to me.

I invested the maximum amount for an individual in the 1990/91 and 1991/92 Aetna Higher Income Portfolio Pep. I lost irretrievably well over £5,500.

However, unlike Mr and Mrs de Vere, *I took the risk of* reinvesting what was left in the unit trust-based Pep. The good news is that since September the value of the investment has increased by approximately £800. To sum up what irritated me most, apart from the tragic loss of my hard earned savings, was the bland public relations generalised letters that I received back *whenever I wrote* to Aetna in order to discover what had happened.

It would have helped enormously to have received a personal letter that specifically answered my questions and expressed genuine regret, but no such luck.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MASON,
Methodist Chaplain,
H.M. Prison,
Wormwood Scrubs,
71 Hamlet Gardens,
Ravenscourt Park,
Hammersmith,
W6.

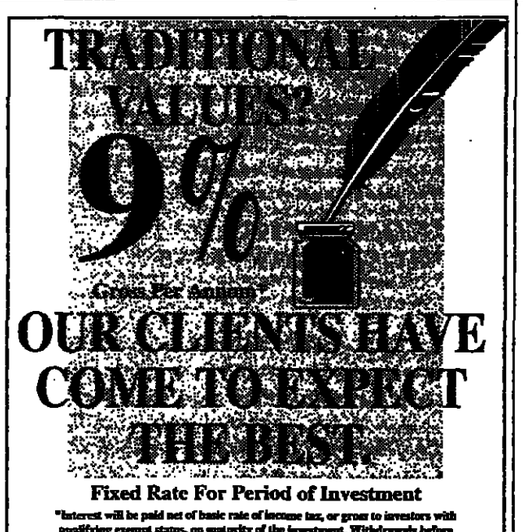
Objective description of means test proposal

From Mr Ben Ross

Sir, I quote from your editorial (February 27): "The sums of money involved may not make the headlines in the same dramatic way as Maxwell but are devastating for retired people who have counted on receiving a certain level of pension and have made contributions all their working lives." This appears to be an objective description of the proposal of the Conservative government to means test pensions.

Would you agree?

Yours faithfully,
BEN ROSS,
38 Wykeham Way,
Burgess Hill,
West Sussex.



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2	Owners Abrd	Leisure	
3	Sth Western	Electricity	
4	BOC	Industrial	
5	MAM	Fin Trusts	
6	Persimmon	Building,Rds	
7	Ryl Bk Scot	Banks,Disc	
8	Blyvoors	Mining	
9	Sth Wales	Electricity	
10	Next	Drapery,Strs	
11	Dag Motors	Motors,Air	
12	Cap & Regnl	Property	
13	Norweb	Electricity	
14	Sthrn Water	Water	
15	BT	Electrical	
16	East Midlands	Electricity	
17	Anglian Water	Water	
18	Calor Gp	Oils, Gas	
19	Sedgwick	Insurance	
20	Kleinwort Ben	Banks,Disc	
21	QS Hldgs	Drapery,Strs	
22	Domino	Electrical	
23	Govett	Finance, Land	
24	Delta	Electrical	
25	Smith New Crt	Fin Trusts	
26	Eastern Elect	Electricity	
27	Burford	Property	
28	Marks Spencer	Drapery,Strs	
29	M & G	Fin Trusts	
30	Debenham Twsn	Property	
31	Harties	Mining	
32	Danka Bs Sys	Industrial	
33	Dom & Gen	Insurance	
34	Securicor	Industrial	
35	Stand Chart	Banks,Disc	
36	Slough Estates	Property	
37	Yorkshire W	Water	
38	Nestor-BNA	Industrial	
39	Pearson	Newspapr,Pub	
40	Charter Cons	Industrial	

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ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
468½	273	East Midlands	465	+8	17.1	4.9	8.9
479	266	Eastern Elect	476	+8	16.7	4.7	11.8
263	143	Hydro-Elect	256	+3	10.1	4.2	11.6
479	288	London Elect	479	+12	16.8	4.7	9.2
542	334	Manweb	542	+12	18.2	4.5	7.8
509	287	Midlands Elec	509	+13	17.2	4.5	10.7
534	296	Northern Elec	530	+9	18.5	4.7	7.9
523	298	Norweb	522	+8	17.7	4.5	9.8
247	142	Scottish Power	242	+6	10.1	4.3	11.6
513	297	Seeboard	508	+4	17.2	4.5	9.2
554	313	Sth Wales	547	+4	19.4	4.7	8.7
499	283	Sth Western	494	+5	17.4	4.7	8.9
480	270	Southern Elec	470	+9	16.6	4.6	9.5
532	331	Yorkshire Elec	530	+10	17.7	4.5	9.8
336	188	National Power	326	+8	9.1	3.7	10.8
330	196	PowerGen	330	+8	9.2	3.7	10.3

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1907½	1025	Alex & Alex	1756½	-18½	...	3.9	...
2087½	1125	Am Gen	2031¼	-18½	...	...	...
66	27	Archer (AJ)	40	...	4.4	14.2	19.5
168	62	Bradstock	139 †	...	5.1	4.9	17.1
1238	763	Britannic	1238	+23	29.5	3.2	...
624	389	Com Union	621 †	+4	...	5.2	...

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28	9	Automagic	11	...	...	...	...
101	42	Headlam	98	...	2.4	3.3	38.8
500	265	Lambert	500	...	12.5	3.3	13.0
111	63	Pittard Garnar	93	...	1.5	2.2	12.3
41	18	Strong & Fisher	22	...	1.0	6.1	6.1
193	88	Stylo	136	...	2.5	2.6	...

TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
478	362	Allied Text	478	...	12.6	3.5	-
73	47	Beckman (A)	61	...	4.7	10.4	12.1
52	21	Bolton Gp	23	...	...	...	11.7
164	138	Br Mohair	161	...	8.5	7.0	12.7
119	30	Celestion	118	...	1.2	1.4	...
41	15	Charnwell	20	...	0.4	2.7	...
337	185½	Claremont Ga	336	+4	...	1.5	23.1
600	304	Courtaulds Text	600	+2	13.6	3.1	-
248½	160	Dawson	227	+1	9.0	5.3	22.1
59	17	Drummond	25	...	1.5	...	7.7
63	17½	Dunkeld	32	-2	...	...	-
73	60	Faupel	72	...	...	9.1	7.1
68	24	Foster (John)	34	...	0.5	2.0	...
142	84	Gaskell	85	...	8.5	...	...
186	99	Hicking Pntcst	171	...	3.4	2.7	14.5
73	38	Jerome (S)	45	...	1.0	...	...
389	215	Lamont	313	-11	...	5.1	15.3
410½	205½	Leeds	403	...	...	2.4	19.5
42	15	Lister	41	...	0.1	0.3	...
122	81	Lyles (S)	116	+4	4.9	5.6	13.2
94	53	Parkland 'A'	90	+4	2.0	3.0	...
95½	63	Readicut	90	...	3.4	4.9	18.7
71	30	SEET	45	...	...	...	...
94	67	Sirdar	92	...	5.1	7.5	15.9
54	29	Stirling Gp	53	...	1.6	4.2	22.0
59	31	Stoddard	49	...	2.6	7.1	13.1
312	198	Tomkinsons	309	...	11.5	5.0	26.7
6½	3	West Trust	5½	...	...	6.1	...
356	160	Yorklyde	340	...	9.7	3.8	15.9

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1010	608	BAT	975	+2	33.6	4.8	24.7
669	480	Rothmans 'B'	649	+14	10.2	2.1	14.8

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
440	211	Assoc Br Ports	393	+4	10.0	2.7	...
816	531	BAA	774	+6	14.5	2.5	13.7
315	219	Br Airways	290	-3	10.1	4.7	7.7
182	45	Clarkson (H)	75	-3	8.0	...	3.5
101	11	Davies Newman	23 #	...	...	...	...
515	293	Eurotunnel Uts	464	-19	...	...	...
88	44	Fisher (James)	51	...	5.5	...	14.3
140	70	Graig	133	...	4.5	4.4	...
203	147	IoM Steam	156	...	...	6.4	7.5
30	22	Jacobs (JI)	30	...	1.9	8.4	17.9
53	41	Lon O'Seas Frts	53	+10	1.2	3.1	3.2
2000	1237½	Manchstr Sh	2000	+350	4.5	0.3	10.9
342	190	Mersey Docks	340	...	7.5	3.0	-
210	168	Natl Express	197	-1	...	4.8	13.0
290	236	NFC	267	...	6.5	3.3	20.2
357	170	Ocean Group	285	+1	14.3	6.7	12.9
63	31	Ocean Wilson	53	+1	...	6.7	11.8
584	296½	P & O Dfd	574	+3	30.5	7.1	20.2
156	97	P & O 5 1/2%	131	-2	...	5.6	...
524	287	Powell Duffryn	523	...	22.6	5.8	20.9
138	96	Seacon	123	...	...	5.5	7.7
59	27½	TIP Europe	27½	...	1.4	6.8	6.7
87	24	TNT	35½	...	...	...	...
745	495½	Tibbet & Britn	730	...	...	2.0	29.2
478	214	Tiphook	352	+1	17.3	6.6	7.0
307	208	TDG	295	...	9.5	4.3	17.7

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
536	308½	Anglian Water	528	+6	19.3	4.9	9.6
610	336	Northumbrian	609	+6	20.5	4.5	6.3
524	323	North West	513	+3½	19.6	5.1	9.0
513	298	Severn Trent	502	+3	18.3	5.1	7.3
525	301	Sthrn Water	517	+5	19.5	5.0	9.1
1300	670	Sth Staffs	1285	...	40.2	4.2	8.3
545	305	South West	544	+14	21.7	5.3	8.2
536	324	Thames Water	531	+8½	19.2	4.8	10.1
587	337	Welsh Water	585	+11	21.4	4.9	6.7
626	358½	Wessex Water	618	+2	...	4.2	8.4
567	336	Yorkshire W	563	+4	19.5	4.6	9.2

Source: Finstat

● USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ↑ Ex rights issue; ↓ Ex all; # Ex capital distribution; – Figures or report awaited; . . No significant data.

هكذا من الأصل

British golfers fly flag in America

Lyle and Faldo hot on heels of Frost

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MIAMI

THE locals, naturally, are inclined to regard the Doral-Ryder Open as an all-American event — Greg Norman, based a short helicopter hop away, is seen as an almost-American — but yesterday, in the second round at Doral country club, Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle made sure their presence did not go unnoticed.

The tournament is Lyle's first outing of the year, but he showed few signs of being fairway rusty as he returned a 67, five under par, for an eight-under total of 136. Faldo clicked back into tournament mode with a round of 65, to be seven under. Those efforts put them well in contention, with David Frost, of South Africa, the leader in the clubhouse at ten under par after a 64.

The early morning conditions were calm, with barely a breeze ruffling the flags, but Lyle said he felt a little anxious and tense at the start. "When you've been out of the game for a while, second rounds are awkward," he said. "I made a bit of a shaky start and didn't hit many greens early on, but I kept scrapping."

Lyle dropped a shot at the 13th, his fourth hole, a par three playing about 220 yards, but settled himself with birdies at the 15th and 16th before coming home in 32, four under par. He birdied the 3rd, then rounded his day off with three birdies in the last four holes. He holed a ten-footer for a three at the 6th, chipped stiff for a birdie four at the 8th and hit an eight-iron to 25 feet at the 9th.

A few minutes later, Faldo finished with his 65, out in 32, back in 33, with seven birdies on his card. "I was swinging a little better," he said, "and tried to slow everything down, to give me time to do what I wanted."

Aware that a second successive round of 72 would put him among the also-rans, Faldo did not start with the authority of the world No. 1 he is, but he gradually worked his way into a groove matched by few. At the 10th, his first hole, a par five that dog-legs slightly left around one of Doral's many lakes, he missed the water with his second shot only because it landed in a bunker. The perfectionist was obviously puzzled, but procured his five.

At the 11th, he was baffled again, by a second shot that went right and failed to find a bunker simply because the ground was wet from overnight rain. The saving grace was that the ball was a mere 25 feet from the pin. A perfect chip ran gently into the hole and from then on, apart from a bunkered tee shot at the 13th, most of the Open champion's shots started to behave as he wanted them to.

Faldo saved par at the 13th and then caught the birdie bug that was affecting a lot of players in the light breeze that rendered the Blue monster course almost docile. He hit a seven-iron to ten feet for a birdie two at the 15th (where Dave Rummells in the group in front had a hole-in-one remarkable for its lack of yay-hahs and high fives): hit a nine-iron to five feet for a three at the 16th: and a steepling nine-iron to five feet at the 18th.

Three more birdies at the 5th, 7th and 8th made his day.

□ Jim Payne, 22, added a 67 to his opening 68 in the Mediterranean Open at El Saler, Valencia, yesterday to lead a tournament for the first time in his professional career.

Payne, the 1992 Rookie of the Year, from Lincolnshire, is on 135, nine under par, three strokes clear of Jesper Parnevik, of Sweden. One stroke back is a group that includes David Feherty and Mark Roe.

Mark James pulled out of the tournament yesterday. James told officials he was feeling unwell with high blood pressure.

SCORES

Second round: Early leaders (US unless stated): 134: D Frost (SA), 70, 64. 135: P Jacobsen, 68, 67, F Couples, 68, 67. 136: A Lyle (GB), 69, 67; M McCumber, 69, 67, K Clearwater, 71, 65. 137: N Faldo (GB), 72, 65; T Purtzer, 68, 69, B Lietzke, 71, 66.

138: E Humenik, 67, 71. 139: T Kite, 66, 73, J Adams, 72, 67; N Lancaster, 69, 70; K Green 69, 70. 141: B Mayfair, 74, 67, B Claar, 70, 71. 142: D Tewell, 69, 73; M Lye, 74, 68

Reilly goes back to basics

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE IN CARCASSONNE

ON THREE previous occasions, the old walled city of Carcassonne has fallen to British invaders, although not without an almighty struggle. This time the French have cause for optimism. A patched-up Great Britain team is neither well prepared for tomorrow's international, nor all-conquering.

For a Great Britain coach who bases strategy on the most finely honed tuning, this game has Malcolm Reilly as nervous as at any point in the six years since he took the national side away for the first time and escaped Carcassonne with a win by 20-10. Such an outcome at the Albert Domec stadium would prompt unparalleled delight this weekend.

Reilly has been wretchedly served by the decision of the Rugby Football League to relieve him of 16 of his original squad of 19 to play in midweek league and cup competition. Injuries and absenteeism has prompted seven late call-ups, and the side did not train together until yesterday, in Toulouse.

Reilly said yesterday that what was required was a careful build-up, basic skills and the grasping of opportunities, particularly late on, when France are prone to tire.

Great Britain has nearly a 75% success rate against France, but Garry Schofield, the Great Britain captain, knows what is at stake. "The strength of rugby league is seen in the success of the national side. Lose this, and where on earth do you stand with Australia? Respect for France must be absolute," he said.

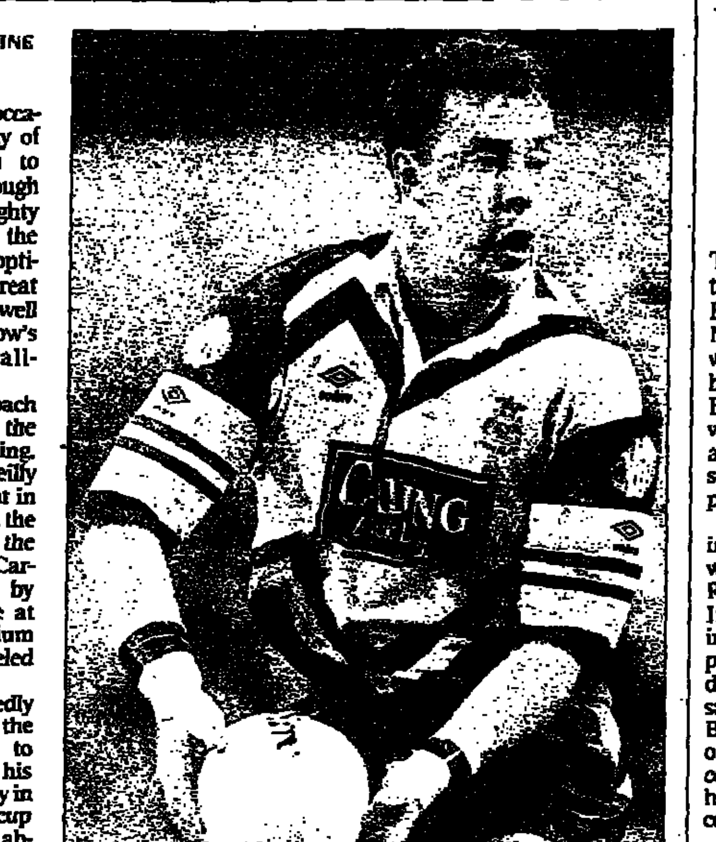
As the misshapen Great Britain side even lacks a regular goalkicker, Schofield may have to share the duty with Andy Currier.

France, who last defeated Britain on home territory 24-16 in Perpignan in 1985, have reshuffled their pack to concentrate on defence and striking from deep. Dumas and Demacedo, at half back, possess the flare to turn English worries into a nightmare, yet victory for the home side is still a long shot.

FRANCE: J Frison (Villefranche); C Sirvent (St Gaudens), P Chamorin (St Estève), P Fage (Pia), J Garcia (St Estève); G Dumas (St Gaudens, captain), L Demacedo (Avignon), T Buttignol (Avignon), B Cartier (St Estève), T Anast (St Gaudens), E Atlia (Cannes), D Cabestany (XIII Catalan), D Amat (Lézignan). Substitutes (from): D Despin (Villeneuve), P Bomati (XIII Catalan), D Frisson (Carpentras), A Alesina (XIII Catalan), H Boudbeza (St Estève), C Grandjean (Lézignan).

GREAT BRITAIN: S Spruce (Widnes), J Devereux (Widnes), A Currier (Widnes), G Connolly (St Helens), A Hunte (St Helens); G Schofield (Leeds, captain), S Edwards (Wigan), N Cowie (Wigan), S McCurrie (Widnes), S Molloy (Leeds), R Eyres (Widnes), P Clarke (Wigan), E Hanley (Leeds). Substitutes: M Ford (Castleford), C Joynt (St Helens), A Bateman (Warrington), S McNamara (Hull).

Referee: G Annesley (Australia).



Added responsibility: Schofield may kick goals

BOXING

Anger fuels Benn's attempt to deal with pedal power

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE great Glasgow bike race takes place at the Scottish Exhibition Centre tonight. Mauro Galvano, of Italy, wearing the yellow jersey, will be pedalling hard and Nigel Benn will be after him. Those who have not seen Galvano in action will be amazed by the speed at which he can complete a circuit of the ring.

Benn lifted the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title from Galvano in Rome in October. Now the Italian is here, at Benn's invitation, for what the champion sees as an easy voluntary defence. An Italian official said: "Galvano couldn't beat Benn here, why should anyone think he can win in your country?" Benn should catch him before the end of the contest.

However, Benn added to the hype last week. "I'm really fired up for this fight," he said. "I'll make Galvano pay." Benn is still angry that Galvano tried to hold on to his title through a technical draw by retiring at the end of the third round with a cut eye and because the Italian crowd pelted him with rubbish as he left the ring.

Galvano, believing that it was not possible for anyone to harbour such anger for four months, thought it was all an act. "You haven't seen the real me," he said. "You'll see the proper me this time, a proper fight."

Galvano is a full super-middleweight, unlike Benn, who is really a middleweight, and if the Italian puts up a proper fight he could cause a lot of problems. Even though Galvano does not punch hard, there was a moment in the last contest when he hurt Benn with a jab, but so intent was Galvano on avoiding a fight that he did not follow up his advantage. Had Galvano been more positive he might have had Benn in serious trouble.

The challenger has had only one bout since that defeat, taking eight unimpressive rounds to outpoint Melvin Wynn, an American journeyman. Chris Pyatt, the Leicester middleweight, took three rounds to dispose of Wynn.

Benn must win early or else he could become entangled in a wrestling match, become frustrated, lose concentration and get caught by a wild punch. Benn's contests are always watchable because anything can happen but, on this occasion, he should win easily providing he has trained well and is not complacent.

□ Darren Dyer has been fined £500 and cautioned as to his future conduct by the British Boxing Board of Control after an incident in Lloyd Honeyghan's dressing-room following the Commonwealth light-middleweight title bout against Mickey Hughes on January 30. Dyer, a welterweight from Islington, challenges Marcelo Domingo Di Croce, of Argentina, for the World Boxing Association Penta-continental title in Hartlepool on Tuesday.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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International	81.51	86.71	-0.74	1.18
Dividend Gth	56.81	60.43	+1.60	4.96
Global Gth Sec	60.00	63.82	+0.13	2.87
Ethical Growth	64.24	68.34	+1.29	2.78
High Inc Equity	151.00	160.60	+3.50	5.29
Worldwide Bond	266.80	282.90r	-3.90	4.42
Gilts Fixed Int	129.30	137.10r	-0.80	6.93
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ. 0224 633070. Dealing: 0800 833580. 30 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ. 071 374 6801				
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European	80.38	85.20r	-0.26	...
European Inc	77.90	82.70r	-1.04	1.62
Exempt	898.70	927.70	+17.40	3.30
Extra Inc	41.81	45.46r	+0.39	5.53
F East Emerg Ec	82.43	88.69	-0.60	0.72
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High Inc	369.90	395.40r	+1.40	4.25
Equity Inc	209.20	223.60r	+4.50	4.07
High Yield	233.00	249.00	+5.00	4.17
Balanced	632.20	675.80	+11.40	2.81
American Inc	49.33	52.73r	-0.51	3.24
Wld Asset Val	38.14	40.77	-0.20	2.01
Japan	142.50	151.90	-3.90	0.01
Secs of Am	430.90	458.80	-4.30	0.36
AXA EQUITY & LAW St George's Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1QD. 0203 553231				
UK Growth Acc	311.70	331.70	+6.30	2.94
-do- Inc	223.30	237.80	+4.50	2.94
Higher Inc Acc	560.70	596.50	+15.20	4.04
-do- Inc	345.90	368.00	+9.50	4.04
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	176.00	185.80r	+1.40	6.65
-do- Inc	92.23	97.40r	-1.93	6.65
Nth America	266.50	283.60		
Far East	259.50	276.10	-7.70	0.32
Europe	217.40	231.30	-4.60	1.29
General Inc	421.70	448.20	+6.80	2.62
-do- Acc	458.80	488.10	+7.40	2.62
Brit Excell	63.55	67.61	+0.39	2.93
Brit Fndmils Inc	65.76	69.96	+0.37	5.24
Brit Fndmils Acc	83.78	89.13	+0.47	5.24
Global Opps	69.13	73.55	-1.47	0.02
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD Gredley Hse, 1-11 Broadway, London E15. 081 534 5544				
Capital	106.50	114.00r	+2.20	3.19
Euro Gth Inc	113.90	120.50	-0.80	1.03
Extra Inc	104.40	111.70	+2.30	5.56
General	239.90	256.60	+6.50	3.47
Gilt Fxd Inc	57.98	59.96r	+0.52	8.66
Income	471.20	504.00r	+12.70	4.79
BARING FUND MANAGERS PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ. 081 658 9002				
American Gth	92.81	98.55	-0.77	0.10
Amer Smllr Cos	120.10	128.60	-1.00	...
Australia				
Convertibles	52.10	55.72	+0.70	7.30
Eastern	176.60	190.10	-4.10	1.70
Equity Income	78.51	83.84	+1.68	6.50
European Gth	227.50	242.30	-1.20	1.60
Euro Smllr Cos	149.10	159.50	-2.80	2.00
Exempt	82.14	84.41	+1.64	3.80
German Growth	54.04	57.73	-0.17	0.80
Global Growth	107.00	114.20	-1.40	...
Japan Growth	157.10	168.50r	-5.30	...
Japan Sunrise	133.10	142.20	-2.80	...
Portfolio	115.20	123.20r	+0.90	3.40
-do- Acc	205.50	219.70r	+1.60	3.40
UK Growth	75.90	80.80	+0.32	3.10
UK Smaller Cos	77.20	82.56	+0.99	2.00
Select Managers	63.01	67.44	+0.73	2.10
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MANAGERS LTD 190 West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA. 041 332 3132				
Balan Gth Acc	103.51	110.71	-2.22	2.39
-do- Inc	94.81	101.40	-2.03	2.39
Global Bond	29.63	31.43	-0.32	5.78
High Yield Acc	51.67	55.27	+0.87	4.52
-do- Inc	37.63	40.51	+0.64	4.52
Smlr Cos Acc	45.88	49.71	+1.48	1.81
-do- Inc	37.57	40.92	+1.37	1.81
Amer Gth Acc	58.31	62.36	-0.36	...
-do- Inc	57.22	61.20r	-0.35	...
Euro Gth Acc	96.02	102.70	-0.47	1.78
-do- Inc	94.70	101.29r	-0.46	1.78
Mngd P folio	34.34	36.73	-0.25	1.54
Pacific Growth	89.62	95.85	-0.68	1.17
Intl Spec Opps	86.44	92.45	-0.77	1.09
BROWN SHIPLEY 9-17 Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath. 0444 458144				
Financial	116.20	123.70r	+5.20	3.59
Smaller Cos Acc	275.60	293.50	+9.20	...
Smaller Cos Inc	161.40	171.90	+5.40	1.34
High Inc	71.17	76.51r	+0.13	7.21
Income	126.60	135.50	+3.60	4.28
Mngd P folio Inc	91.22	97.15r	+0.63	2.14
-do- Acc	172.40	193.60	+1.41	...
North American	106.70	113.70	-1.40	0.19
Orient	100.65	109.30	-1.90	...
Recovery	37.15	39.96	+0.61	2.95
German	43.04	46.14	+0.04	0.09
Intl Growth	32.73	34.91	-0.32	0.22
European Inc	22.92	24.58	-0.06	1.16
Conv General	...	...	...	...
BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7JJ. 071 247 4542. Dealing: 071 247 7474				
Fellowship Tst	64.79	68.93	+1.11	1.00
-do- Acc	72.25	76.85	+1.23	1.00
Income Fund 3	211.60	225.20	+5.90	4.01
-do- Acc	491.10	511.90	+13.00	4.01
Inv Portfolio	67.21	71.66r	+1.36	2.11
-do- Acc	75.89	79.65	+1.54	2.11
Smaller Cos	119.90	127.60	+2.10	2.05
-do- Acc	144.10	153.30	+2.50	2.05
High Inc P folio	59.22	61.37	+1.25	4.69
BURRAGE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL. 071 480 7216				
Shi Gib Fxd Int	66.40	67.29r	-2.15	6.99
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Environ	134.80	143.50	+1.70	1.65
UK Growth	145.60	154.90r	+4.20	2.39
UK Income	124.40	132.40	+3.40	4.38
CANNON FUND MANAGERS 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8876				
SE Asia	81.34	87.35	-1.52	1.05
Growth	44.82	47.94	+1.03	2.98
Income	53.02	56.71	+1.40	4.29
Far East	42.64	45.60	-0.50	0.17
North American	82.78	88.54	-0.46	0.01
Global	81.73	87.41r	-0.98	0.69
European	69.01	73.81	-0.86	1.27
Japan	88.55	94.08	-1.62	0.01
Intl Currency Bd	60.94	64.73	-0.37	4.05
UK Cap Gwth	78.52	83.98	+1.92	2.02

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
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-do- Acc	141.30	150.40	+0.30	0.20
European	66.69	70.66	-0.59	1.06
-do- Acc	69.12	73.24	-0.62	1.06
Far East Gen	50.00	53.20r	-0.40	...
-do- Acc	50.00	53.20	-0.40	...
Glenfriars	248.70	264.60r	+4.90	1.00
-do- Acc	280.00	297.90	-5.60	1.00
Growth	375.20	401.30	+6.70	2.55
-do- Acc	643.00	687.80	+11.50	2.55
Income Growth	371.30	395.10r	+8.90	3.99
-do- Acc	493.70	525.30	+11.70	3.99
Master Portfolio	9430.0	9748.0r	+96.00	2.67
-do- Acc	10961.0	11228.0	+111.0	2.67
Special Sits	85.95	91.34r	+1.45	2.51
-do- Acc	100.46	106.88	+1.68	2.51
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	1196.0	1234.0	+28.00	4.48
-do- Acc	1396.0	1429.0	+33.00	4.48
CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU. 071 955 5050. Dealing: 071 955 5055				
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Capital	534.30	570.20	+12.60	2.50
Eurotrack 100	130.70	139.00r	-1.20	1.72
Euro Gth	80.74	85.91	-0.52	1.44
Far East Growth	81.64	87.12	-0.93	0.16
Global Bond	23.81	25.08	-0.07	6.87
Hong Kong	77.00	82.17r	-0.06	0.59
Income	505.90	539.60	+11.60	4.64
Intl Growth	72.00	76.84	-0.25	1.06
Japan Growth	206.70	220.50	-4.50	...
Japan Smllr Cos	25.98	27.72	-0.81	...
Japan Index	61.35	65.47r	-1.85	0.31
Nth American	433.50	462.60	-3.40	0.97
S pore Mly Gth	49.80	53.14	-0.88	...
The Footsie Fd	108.40	114.40	+2.40	2.75
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UK Index	122.60	131.00	+2.80	3.29
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH. 071 606 0708				
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Japanese P folio	50.73	53.88	-0.81	...
Pacific P folio	92.90	98.90	-0.37	2.43
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CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815				
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Income	596.47	603.35	+33.21	4.98
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Deposit	6.00	...	...	...
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-do- Acc	166.55	166.88	+4.66	...
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Friars Hse Cap	245.70	264.29	+4.26	2.94
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ. Enquiries: 081 681 2222. Dealing: 081 686 9818				
American Gth	111.75	118.88	-0.72	..
European Gth	95.06	101.13	-0.42	1.26
Far East Gth	95.58	101.68	-1.17	0.31
Japan Gth Acc	33.35	35.48	-0.69	...
Managed	60.93	64.82	-0.54	3.02
-do- Acc	73.59	78.29	-0.66	3.02
Mnthly Inc Plus	47.52	50.55	+0.14	9.49
Smaller Cos	32.18	34.23r	+0.50	2.12
-do- Acc	36.25	38.56	+0.58	2.12
UK General	68.36	72.72	+1.35	2.71
-do- Acc	81.96	87.19	+1.63	2.71
Wwide Bd	64.69	68.82r	-2.02	6.38
-do- Acc	83.22	88.53	-0.23	6.38
Wwide Sp Sits	53.60	57.33	-0.40	0.26
-do- Acc	56.54	59.72	-0.42	0.26
Quilter General	122.39	130.83	+2.40	2.47
-do- Acc	135.16	143.78	+2.64	2.47
Quilter Income	92.92	98.85r	+2.54	4.50
-do- Acc	114.52	121.83	+3.13	4.50
Quilter Intl	124.87	132.84	-0.07	0.43
-do- Acc	126.59	134.67	-0.09	0.43
Quilter UK Spec	69.63	74.07	+1.20	2.46
-do- Acc	92.12	98.00	+1.60	2.46
CU Prestige Fund Management				
Fin Property	101.32	107.79	+2.84	1.74
Fixed Conv	40.47	43.05r	-0.45	8.18
-do- Acc	105.57	112.31	-1.17	8.18
Equity Inc	145.25	154.52r	+6.08	4.00
-do- Acc	467.07	496.88	+19.44	4.00
High Yield	117.47	124.97r	+1.33	5.18
-do- Acc	444.15	472.50	+9.74	5.18
Preference	47.90	50.96	+0.04	7.75
-do- Acc	242.62	258.11	+4.70	7.75
PPT Europe	150.72	160.34	-0.84	0.56
PPT Global Bnd	85.00	90.31	-0.83	4.88
PPT Gold Com	49.20	52.34	-1.04	...
PPT Thai	55.42	58.96	-2.18	...
PPT Hong Kong	100.70	107.13	-0.63	0.33
PPT Japan	92.21	98.10	-1.61	..
PPT N Amer	153.51	163.31	-1.45	...
PPT S'pore Mly	99.62	105.98	-1.35	...
PPT UK	117.01	124.48	+3.88	1.44
PPT Cash	91.15	91.13	+0.07	6.02
EAGLE STAR UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ. 0242 577555				
Oriental Op Acc	78.09	83.07	-1.10	0.95
Japanese Acc	47.93	50.99	-0.98	...
UK Balncd Inc	124.80	132.90	+3.40	2.53
-do- Acc	145.80	155.10	+4.10	2.53
UK Growth Acc	206.80	220.00	+5.10	2.19
UK High Inc	134.00	142.50	+4.10	6.67
-do- Acc	158.20	168.30	+4.90	6.67
N America Acc	114.50	121.80	-0.50	0.32
European Acc	153.70	163.50	+0.80	0.43
UK Pref F/I Inc	60.72	64.41	+0.46	8.77
-do- Acc	97.99	104.00	+0.80	8.77
Intl Sp Sits Acc	45.32	48.21	-0.75	0.23
Environmntl Opp	71.99	76.59	-1.41	1.45
EDINBURGH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD. 031 313 1000				
American	115.10	122.30	-1.40	..
UK Smlr Cos	182.90	194.30	+2.60	1.29
Eurofund	38.12	40.29	-0.27	0.00
Mngd Exempt	164.50	171.40	+0.90	3.06
Growth Inc	212.00	225.90r	+4.00	3.98
High Dist	139.20	147.90	+3.40	5.85
International	314.90	334.80	-0.70	0.97
Intl Income	81.60	87.11	-0.25	2.98
Pacific	57.03	60.61	-0.57	0.49
Smllr Jap Cos	55.05	58.49	-1.67	...
Tokyo	159.90	169.90	-6.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Exempt	90.70	93.19	-2.45	0.54
Sm Jap Exempt	459.10	471.70	-9.30	0.11
ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT 41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU. 071 373 7261				
Endurance	167.40	178.00	-0.40	1.16
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7QW. 0296 431480				
Pelican	105.64	111.20	+2.40	3.51
High Income	120.71	127.06	+3.02	5.08
Tst of Inv Tsts	140.09	147.46r	+1.95	2.18
Special Sits	83.99	88.41	+2.42	3.27
North American	106.58	112.19	-0.73	0.98
Far Eastern	216.56	227.96	-2.58	1.52
Intl Growth	90.81	95.59	-0.24	1.44
European	63.94	66.30	-1.83	2.19
Smaller Cos	70.12	73.81	+0.90	2.26
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181				
America	222.10	235.70	-0.70	...
Cash Unit Tst	100.00	100.00	...	6.00
European Tst	110.30	117.30	-0.60	...
FOREIGN & COLONIAL 8th Floor, Exchange Hse, Primrose St, London EC2A 2NY. 071 628 8000				
European	93.65	99.13	-0.97	0.87
Far Eastern	118.50	126.80	-1.70	...
Oseas Income	90.36	96.94	-0.23	2.71
Uk Growth	91.76	98.14	+1.75	1.32
UK Income	102.30	109.40	+2.90	3.80
US Smaller Cos	235.40	251.80	+2.60	...
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT. 071 374 4100				
Am Smllr Co	426.70	456.30	+9.30	...
-do- Acc	435.90	466.10	+9.40	...
Capital	281.70	299.60	+1.70	2.18
-do- Acc	388.80	413.50	+2.30	2.18
Contl Smllr Cos	46.35	49.97	-0.21	1.28
-do- Acc	47.96	51.70	-0.22	1.28
Convertible	108.90	115.80	+1.80	6.52
-do- Acc	201.60	214.40	+3.20	6.52
European	97.67	104.30	-0.70	0.92
-do- Acc	100.90	107.80	-0.70	0.92
Extra Income	285.50	303.60r	+5.30	4.45
-do- Acc	399.80	425.20r	+7.40	4.45
Financial	106.10	114.30	+0.80	0.60
-do- Acc	110.40	118.90	+0.80	0.60
Health Fund Inc	113.00	120.70	+0.70	...
-do- Acc	113.00	120.70	+0.70	...
Income Tst	175.50	186.60	+4.40	4.15
-do- Acc	244.60	260.10	+6.10	4.15
Intl Growth	304.40	325.50	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	338.00	361.40	-0.50	...
Japan Gen	139.40	149.20	-1.70	...
-do- Acc	140.80	150.70	-1.70	...
Mngd P folio Inc	89.95	94.68	+0.63	1.06
-do- Acc	92.89	97.77	+0.66	1.06
Monthly Income	144.30	153.40	+1.60	4.64
Recovery	291.10	311.30r	+7.10	0.91
-do- Acc	341.00	364.60r	+8.30	0.91
Gilt Gth Tst	62.82	64.78	+1.04	8.78
-do- Acc	78.87	81.32	+1.30	8.78
FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 3SH. Dealing: 0722 411411. Administration: 0722 411622				
Equity Dist	347.96	370.17	+9.83	2.95
-do- Acc	702.57	747.42	+19.85	2.95
Euro Gth Dist	105.54	112.28r	+0.14	0.93
-do- Acc	108.69	115.63r	+0.15	0.93
Fixed Int Dist	130.53	138.07r	-0.18	6.44
-do- Acc	219.26	231.92r	+2.46	6.44
Intl Gth Dist	73.99	78.71	-0.31	0.80
-do- Acc	76.53	81.42	-0.32	0.80
Nth Amer Dist	170.16	180.41	-1.26	0.77
-do- Acc	184.53	195.64	-1.38	0.77
Pac Basin Dist	223.91	238.20	-2.71	0.34
-do- Acc	227.44	241.96	-2.75	0.34
Stewardship Dist	295.63	314.50	+6.61	1.97
-do- Acc	349.76	372.08	+7.82	1.97
Stwd Inc Dist	61.28	65.19r	+1.26	3.88
-do- Acc	75.08	79.87r	+1.43	3.88
N Am Stwd Dist	100.18	106.57	-2.08	..
-do- Acc	105.97	112.73	+2.19	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS 8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YJ. 071 220 4567. Dealing: 071 626 9431				
Am Sp Sits	133.90	143.20	-1.10	...
European	397.60	421.70r	-5.60	1.00
Far East General	196.00	209.70	-2.00	0.34
Germany	99.32	105.20	-1.00	0.43
Global Assets In	66.28	70.89	+0.34	2.28
Global Assets Ac	69.45	74.28	+0.36	2.25
Income Inc	107.00	114.50r	-3.10	7.68
International	250.50	268.00r	-2.50	1.04
Intl Income	77.34	82.05	-0.55	4.86
Japan General	311.80	330.50	-4.20	...
Smllr Cos Div	44.88	48.01	+0.50	6.32
UK Capital Inc	153.70	164.40r	+4.47	4.06
-do- Acc	262.90	291.20	+7.50	3.99
Uk Spec Sits	70.57	75.48	+1.54	1.68
US General	113.00	120.50	-1.40	0.11
W wide Spec Sits	112.00	119.80	-0.40	0.11
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS Gartmore House, 16/18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ. 071 623 1212. Dealing: 0277 264421. Services: 0800 289 336				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	43.35	46.36r	+1.25	1.25
Cash Trust	127.56	127.86	+0.11	6.16
Pref Inv Inc	102.02	109.40	+1.55	4.02
-do- Acc	217.81	233.58	+3.33	4.02
UK Smaller Cos	96.16	103.12	+1.05	1.61
Income Funds				
Preference Share	25.25	27.01	-0.73	8.18
High Inc	30.78	32.92r	-0.51	5.50
UK Equity Inc	126.87	135.69	-3.59	4.17
Global Bond	30.45	31.55	-0.22	5.45
International Funds				
Gold Intl	63.27	67.85	-1.74	1.72
Frontier Markets	40.51	43.44	-1.24	0.23
Global Inc Gth	121.15	129.30	-0.10	2.41
UK Intl	107.81	115.30	-1.06	0.75
Overseas Funds				
American	129.99	138.63	-1.59	0.61
European	81.89	86.77	-0.56	0.58
Euro Sel Opps	93.48	99.90r	-0.92	1.28
American Emerg	78.46	84.14	-1.47	..
Hong Kong	109.60	117.53r	-0.51	1.96
Japan	167.84	179.37	-2.23	...
Pacific Growth	142.64	152.96	-0.52	0.50
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR. 071 378 7979. Dealing: 071 588 0526				
Intl Growth	120.03	128.38	-0.77	0.47
American Gth	119.64	127.96	-0.77	...
European Gth	68.39	73.15	-0.68	0.47
German Horizon	47.86	51.04	-0.93	0.92
Japan Gth	61.49	65.76	-2.01	...
Pacific Inc	127.44	136.30	-0.01	3.00
Pacific Strategy	105.77	113.13	-0.39	...
UK Prog Inc	73.50	77.51	+2.75	4.86
Ct British Cos	48.34	50.96	+1.29	2.42
UK Small Cos	42.91	45.89	-0.67	2.13
GRE UNIT MANAGERS 36 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE. 071 538 9668				
Cash	130.10	130.10	...	5.04
Gilt Fixed	120.00	127.20r	+1.90	6.61
Growth Equity	283.00	303.30	+4.00	2.26
Guardhill	419.80	449.40r	+13.30	2.58

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income Trust	105.30	112.40	-4.40	3.77
International	150.70	161.00	-0.90	0.32
Japan Trust	100.70	107.50	-2.70	...
Managed	...	...	...	...
Nth American	258.80	276.40	-0.80	0.36
Pacific	330.80	353.40	-6.60	0.01
Prop Shares	...	...	...	...
Small Cos				
European	337.00	360.00	+0.10	0.64
HALIFAX STANDARD TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD PO Box 688, Edinburgh EH15 1EW. 0800 838868				
Global Adv Inc	34.36	36.43r	+0.59	1.79
-do- Acc	35.98	38.14	+0.62	1.79
Inc Adv Inc	29.16	30.91r	+0.39	4.23
-do- Acc	30.31	32.13	+0.67	4.23
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690340				
Canadian	72.27	77.42	+1.04	0.71
Equity Income	111.00	118.10r	+2.70	3.62
European	134.10	141.80	-0.70	1.50
Intl Situation	73.40	78.09	+0.89	...
Japanese	112.90	120.10	-1.90	...
North American	102.40	108.60	-3.90	0.06
Scandinavian	103.40	109.20	+0.60	0.12
Smaller Cos	29.56	31.45r	+0.54	2.32
HENDERSON PO Box 2003, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1XT. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 234772				
Amer Smaller	89.81	96.04	+1.30	...
Asian Enterprise	116.15	126.74	-1.64	0.83
Australian	132.21	141.32	+0.21	1.36
European	361.98	383.02	-0.21	0.98
European Inc	68.83	72.77r	-0.31	3.05
Euro Sml Co	119.00	126.87	-0.64	0.81
Extra Income	253.37	269.73r	+1.19	5.39
Family of Funds	67.51	72.09	+1.28	1.25
Fixed Interest	55.18	59.00r	-0.91	9.49
Global Resour	83.11	89.21r	+1.31	1.50
High Inc	277.49	296.63r	+7.70	4.54
Income Gth	233.45	248.61	+6.71	3.82
-do- Acc	587.48	625.63	+16.88	3.82
International	220.10	234.21	-2.16	0.84
Japan Spc Sit	184.51	196.12	-6.26	...
Japan	158.59	168.56r	-5.21	...
N Amer	228.09	242.83	-2.37	0.14
Pacific Smllr Cos	163.76	175.92	-0.15	0.87
Pref Gth	46.67	50.72r	+0.54	9.17
Smaller Cos Div	155.44	169.42r	+1.09	4.36
Special Sits	250.17	267.67r	+5.15	1.48
-do- Acc	384.41	411.30r	+7.90	1.48
Best of British	55.22	59.19	-0.83	2.40
Spirit of the East	53.54	57.12	-0.66	0.74
HILL SAMUEL UT MANAGERS NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon. 081 686 4355				
British	87.62	93.71	+1.72	2.27
Capital	152.60	163.20r	+1.40	2.02
Dollar	310.00	331.50	-4.10	0.29
European	191.30	204.50	-0.90	0.57
Far East	228.30	244.10	-5.80	0.63
Financial	644.60	689.40	-1.60	2.59
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	26.18	27.20	-0.34	8.00
High Yield	98.93	105.80	+2.30	5.11
Income	135.10	142.30	+3.30	3.53
Intl	204.60	218.80	-3.70	0.52
Japan Tech	53.59	57.31	-1.84	...
Nat Resources	55.53	59.39	-1.69	0.90
Security	299.80	309.90r	+3.30	2.15
Smaller Cos	102.60	109.70	+1.50	1.78
Special Sits	131.10	140.20r	-0.70	2.34
US Smaller Cos	64.89	69.40	-0.51	...
IBI FUND MANAGERS 36 Queen St, London, EC4R 1BN. 071 489 8673				
Brit O seas	248.40	261.50	+1.20	1.37
Capital Gwth	102.40	107.80	-0.20	2.47
Inv Trusts	125.40	132.00	+2.20	0.72
INVESCO MIM UT MANAGERS 11 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YR. 071 626 3434. Dealing: 0800 010733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
Smaller Cos	22.48	24.75r	+0.45	1.71
Special Features	26.76	29.43	+0.77	1.62
-do- Acc	31.38	33.34	+0.90	1.62
General Funds				
UK Growth	52.64	56.35	+1.67	2.32
Assets Earnings	69.93	74.30r	+1.85	2.00
do Acc	82.19	87.32r	+2.04	2.01
Managed Invest	91.26	96.83r	+0.41	1.37
Rupert Children	75.46	80.42	+1.57	1.74
High Income Funds				
Cashbox	50.17	50.17	+0.04	5.08
Extra Inc	78.72	84.31r	+2.40	5.46
Gilt	29.04	29.52	-0.31	6.97
Income Gth	38.11	40.75	+1.04	3.64
MTVistar	76.99	78.89	+0.61	8.53
Preference	17.79	19.46r	+0.13	6.79
UK Income	305.60	328.70	+7.40	3.35
Sector Specialist Funds				
Fincl Sec	53.89	57.25	+1.35	1.49
Property Shares	56.49	60.02r	-0.07	2.31
Exempt Funds				
Exempt	139.70	146.90	+3.90	4.39
European Acc	110.50	117.20	-0.20	2.04
European Dist	105.20	111.60	-0.20	2.04
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Gth	49.74	52.89r	-0.22	1.05
European Perf	107.30	113.90	-0.30	1.32
-do- Acc	109.30	116.00	-0.30	1.32
Euro Small Cos	20.24	21.58	-0.01	0.82
French Growth	68.69	73.12r	-0.03	0.58
-do- Acc	73.21	77.93r	-0.03	0.56
Hong K/China	67.53	72.61	-0.43	1.29
Intl Growth	48.61	51.64	-0.14	0.85
-do- Acc	48.61	51.64	-0.14	0.85
Japan Perf	25.81	27.41	-0.68	...
Accum Units	25.81	27.41	-0.68	...
Japan Smllr Cos	27.79	29.52	-1.01	...
Singapore Asean	70.70	75.52	-0.93	0.58
-do- Acc	71.14	77.00	-0.93	0.58
South East Asia	212.60	229.20r	-0.70	0.96
US Smllr Cos	109.50	116.60	+1.00	...
-do- Acc	110.90	117.80	+1.00	...
Overseas Income Funds				
Global Inc	82.58	87.95	+0.34	2.76
Intl Bond	57.91	58.64r	-0.09	6.64
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUST LTD 10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3. 071 956 6600. Dealing: 071 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Cash Acc	68.78	69.12r	+0.06	5.58
Extra Income	51.57	54.86r	+0.30	7.02
Gilt Yield	119.20	125.80r	-0.60	7.96
Global Income	196.70	208.80r	-2.60	4.07
High Yield	132.00	140.40	+3.50	6.25
Smllr Cos Div	44.63	47.48r	+1.05	5.03
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	91.92	97.79	+0.27	...
North American	77.38	82.32	-0.26	0.43
European	129.80	138.10	-1.00	0.91
Euro Special	76.67	81.56	-1.04	1.02
General	266.10	283.10	+8.60	3.36
Japan	318.10	338.40	-8.30	...
Japanese Special	175.60	186.80	-2.70	...
Master Acc	213.20	226.80	+0.10	1.46
Pacific	245.90	261.60	-0.20	0.50
Smaller Cos	96.91	103.10	+4.48	2.24
UK Equity Gth	34.33	36.52r	+1.05	2.71
LAS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 113 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 5EB. 031 550 5151				
European	72.79	77.44	+0.25	0.51
Extra Income	23.89	25.40	+0.36	3.49

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Far East	23.57	25.07	-0.44	1.00
Income Gwth	71.87	76.46r	+1.16	3.10
Intl Growth	49.37	52.52	-0.03	0.90
Japan	51.06	54.32r	-1.67	...
Maximum Dist*	100.60	102.60r	...	7.36
N Amer Equity	40.94	43.55	-0.06	0.50
UK Equity	86.17	91.67	+2.84	3.27
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 1 White Hart Yard, London SE1. 071 407 5966				
Income Gth Inc	52.88	56.26	+1.76	4.73
LEGAL & GENERAL UT MANAGERS 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood Essex. Enq: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690395				
Equity Dist	419.90	446.70r	+5.30	2.95
Equity Acc	798.20	849.10	+18.00	2.95
Equity Income	89.22	94.92	-0.70	5.20
European	95.25	101.30r	-1.40	1.69
Far Eastern	160.70	171.00	-4.40	0.34
Fixed Interest	51.44	54.72	+0.95	7.40
Gilt	92.31	97.89	+1.00	7.00
Global Growth	62.60	66.60	-1.41	0.78
Intl Bond	57.71	61.39r	-0.68	5.00
Japanese	55.31	58.86	-1.72	...
Overseas Equity	90.39	96.16	-2.46	0.82
Pacific Gth	79.70	84.79	-2.81	1.32
LLOYDS BANK UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF. 0634 834313				
Balanced	316.20	336.40	+8.00	2.94
-do- Acc	684.60	728.40	+17.40	2.94
Contl Euro Gth	51.16	53.86	-0.05	1.31
-do- Acc	54.10	56.95	-0.05	1.31
Extra Inc	238.40	253.70	+6.20	4.00
-do- Acc	579.80	616.90	+15.10	4.00
German Gth	102.10	107.50	-0.80	0.12
-do- Acc	107.10	112.80	-0.70	0.12
Growth Port	479.20	509.40	+5.90	2.05
-do- Acc	479.20	509.40	+5.90	2.05
Income	446.10	474.60	+12.10	3.81
-do- Acc	1130.0	1203.0	+31.00	3.81
Income Port	485.40	516.40	+6.50	3.97
-do- Acc	485.40	516.40	+6.50	3.97
Japan Growth	75.94	80.79	-1.77	0.01
-do- Acc	76.21	81.08	-1.77	0.01
Master Trust	51.33	54.61	+0.62	1.43
-do- Acc	55.82	59.39	+0.67	1.43
N'American Gen	187.60	199.60	+1.10	0.01
-do- Acc	216.60	230.50	+1.30	0.01
NAm Sm Co Rec	136.30	145.10	+2.90	0.01
-do- Acc	139.10	148.00	+3.00	0.01
Pacific Basin	195.20	207.70	+0.30	0.51
-do- Acc	206.30	219.50	+0.30	0.51
Small Cos Rec	298.40	314.20	+3.30	2.41
-do- Acc	385.10	405.40	+4.40	2.41
UK Growth	78.39	83.40	+1.60	2.36
-do- Acc	91.41	97.25	+1.98	2.36
Worldwide Gth	271.70	289.10	+3.00	0.24
-do- Acc	400.40	426.00	+3.10	0.24
LONDON & MANCHESTER Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 282673				
General	77.00	82.62	+2.05	3.00
Income	59.06	63.37r	+0.56	6.00
International	53.96	57.90	-0.26	0.80
American	60.09	64.47	-0.33	0.30
Japan	39.92	42.83	-1.35	...
Tst of Inv Trusts	53.83	57.76	+1.12	2.00
M & G SECURITIES LTD Victoria Rd, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Customer Services/Unit Dealing: 0245 390340				
American Gen	393.20	415.00r	-3.60	0.89
-do- Acc	485.20	512.10	-4.50	0.89
American Rec	408.00	431.50	-2.90	0.46
-do- Acc	466.80	493.70	-3.30	0.46
Am Sm Co Acc	118.10	126.40	-1.20	0.06
Australia Acc	139.40	147.40	+0.90	1.58
Capital	616.10	651.50r	+15.40	3.19
-do- Acc	679.80	718.80	+16.90	3.19
Commodity Acc	382.90	404.90	-2.30	1.27
Compnd Gth	798.00	842.40	+25.10	3.29
Dividend	33.60	36.00	+1.20	4.72
-do- Acc	131.00	140.20	+4.90	4.72
Equity Inc	277.50	293.59r	+4.10	5.54
European Div	56.90	60.60	+0.30	4.89
-do- Acc	64.20	68.40	+0.20	4.89
European Gen	379.80	400.60	+3.70	1.45
-do- Acc	473.10	500.40	+4.50	1.45
Extra Yield	357.10	392.60	+13.30	4.79
-do- Acc	1027.5	1099.4	+38.20	4.79
Far Eastern	264.80	280.00r	-1.80	1.35
-do- Acc	348.40	368.40	-2.30	1.35
Fund of Inv	488.50	516.60r	+9.00	2.43
-do- Acc	881.50	932.20	+16.10	2.43
General	52.10	55.10	+1.60	3.92
-do- Acc	137.20	145.10	+4.30	3.92
Gilt Fxd Int	62.10	62.10r	+0.50	8.30
do Acc	153.50	153.60	+1.40	8.30
Gold	36.60	38.70	-0.70	2.01
-do- Acc	42.80	45.20	-0.90	2.01
High Inc	23.60	25.00	+0.40	5.14
-do- Acc	87.30	92.40	+1.10	5.14
Intl Growth	65.70	69.50r	-0.10	1.15
-do- Acc	113.10	119.70	-0.20	1.15
Intl Inc	89.90	95.30	.	5.14
Japan Gen Acc	40.60	43.00	-0.70	...
Japan Smllr Cos	117.10	123.90	-1.30	...
Midland	50.10	53.00	+1.20	4.40
-do- Acc	158.30	167.50	+3.80	4.40
Recovery	34.20	36.60	+1.10	3.43
-do- Acc	53.70	57.50	+1.70	3.43
Second Gen	58.40	61.80	+1.50	3.92
-do- Acc	142.70	151.00	+3.60	3.92
Smaller Cos	55.80	94.20r	-0.83	3.79
-do- Acc	105.90	112.30	+1.60	3.79
Trustee	37.00	39.10	+1.00	4.34
Charibond 3	£112.04	...	-1.30	9.63
Charifund 2	613.10	619.30	+19.90	5.12
Pension ex 1	852.20	873.60	+27.60	4.53
NAACIF Inc 3	145.50	..	+0.75	7.79
-do- Acc 3	£1074.0	.	+19.50	7.79
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD PO Box 410, Chester X, CH99 9QG. 0244 680066				
Inv Port Inc	132.30	141.50r	+1.80	2.57
-do- Acc	147.00	157.10r	+1.90	2.57
UK Income	109.70	117.30r	+2.90	3.14
-do- Acc	122.30	130.80r	+3.20	3.14
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. 031 229 5252				
Emerg Mkts	75.73	80.99r	-0.94	0.62
Far East (Pacific)	122.30	129.80	-4.10	0.78
Income Growth	70.49	74.83r	+1.38	4.33
European	65.60	69.70r	+0.85	1.98
Nth American	57.77	61.32	-1.49	1.18
UK Growth	76.04	80.72	+2.02	1.47
Intl Growth	86.85	92.19	-0.30	0.74
Charities	105.90	112.40r	+2.30	4.69
Intl Income	64.18	68.13r	-0.05	4.95
Japan	40.61	43.11r	-1.10	.
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD 33 King William St, EC4R 9AS. 071 280 2860				
American	189.00	200.70	-2.70	...
-do- Acc	202.00	214.50	-3.00	.
Cash	100.70	100.70	+0.10	6.05
-do- Acc	128.10	128.10	+0.10	6.05
European Gth	192.00	203.90	+0.90	0.34
-do- Acc	205.50	218.10	+0.70	0.34
General	451.50	481.70r	-8.70	2.70
-do- Acc	859.30	916.60r	+20.90	2.70
Global Dist	136.10	143.10	-0.60	5.44
-do- Acc	149.20	156.70	-0.80	5.44
Income	135.00	144.00r	+4.00	5.06
-do- Acc	197.60	210.80r	+5.90	5.06
International	366.60	390.20	+0.10	0.95
-do- Acc	486.60	518.20	+0.20	0.95

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan	149.50	156.60	-3.30	...
-do- Acc	153.50	162.80	-3.40	...
New Europe	132.50	141.40r	+2.10	1.41
-do- Acc	134.70	143.70r	+2.10	1.41
Recovery	282.50	301.40	+8.70	2.33
-do- Acc	353.00	376.60	+10.40	2.33
European Inc	73.53	77.92	-0.33	3.01
-do- Acc	93.28	98.84	-0.43	3.01
Brit Blue Chip	71.64	76.32	+2.34	3.61
-do- Acc	83.88	89.37	+2.75	3.61
Portfolio	73.43	78.08	+1.87	3.07
-do- Acc	82.28	87.49	+1.87	3.07
Gold General	64.10	68.38	-1.28	3.55
-do- Acc	64.97	69.31	-1.31	3.55
Pacific	85.36	91.05	-1.19	0.54
-do- Acc	90.23	96.25	-1.25	0.54
UK Smaller Cos	49.02	52.29r	+0.76	1.10
-do- Acc	54.70	58.35r	+0.85	1.10
MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS LTD 192 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3RD. Dealing: 0742 520 280. Enquiries: 0742 529 076				
Balanced Dist	57.03	60.99	+0.49	3.37
-do- Acc	57.03	60.99	+0.49	3.37
British Dist	75.56	80.81r	+1.63	2.32
-do- Acc	85.48	91.42	+1.84	2.32
European Gth	166.50	177.70	-0.60	0.21
-do- Acc	209.00	223.10	-0.70	0.21
Extra High Inc	68.16	72.90	+1.01	6.50
-do- Acc	118.50	126.70	+1.80	6.50
FT-SE 100 Index	48.08	51.42	+0.99	3.22
-do- Acc	48.08	51.42	+0.99	3.22
Gilt Fixed Int	56.38	58.69r	-0.31	7.12
-do- Acc	148.50	154.40	+1.30	7.12
High Yield	214.20	229.10	+3.70	5.12
-do- Acc	491.50	525.70	+8.50	5.12
Income	271.60	290.50r	+6.30	3.92
-do- Acc	564.70	604.00	+13.20	3.92
Japan Gth	270.50	289.30r	-3.30	...
-do- Acc	285.60	305.50	-3.30	...
Mandarin Acc	93.56	100.10	-0.10	1.25
North American	166.20	177.80	-1.70	0.92
-do- Acc	208.90	223.40	-2.30	0.92
MORGAN GRENFELL INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD 20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 1UT. Dealing: 071 826 0826. Enquiries: 071 826 0123				
American Gth	255.90	272.50	-1.90	0.46
Deposit Inc	100.18	100.18	+0.09	5.56
Deposit Acc	121.43	121.43	+0.10	5.56
Euro Gth Acc	253.70	271.10r	+1.20	...
Europa	116.10	124.70r	-0.80	...
Intl Gth	159.70	170.40	-0.30	...
Japan Tracker	59.44	63.06	-1.73	...
UK Equity Inc	142.40	153.40	+3.90	5.11
-do- Acc	171.50	184.70	+4.70	5.11
UK Ind Tracker	140.50	150.40r	+3.70	3.51
US Eq Ind Trkr	195.80	207.90r	-2.90	1.25
-do- Acc	207.10	219.50r	-1.90	1.25
Asian Trader	145.00	157.40	-1.50	1.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 7 West Nile St, Glasgow G2 2PX. 0345 090 933				
American Inc	172.60	176.40r	-2.00	2.67
European	59.66	60.99	+0.05	1.29
Olympiad	52.33	53.57r	-0.20	0.91
Global Bond	48.27	48.79r	-0.15	7.03
Smaller Cos	59.53	62.18	+0.54	1.87
Equity Income	91.42	94.04r	+2.30	4.98
UK Growth	81.71	84.19	+1.52	1.86
NM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD The Bilton Centre, North Harbour, Portsmouth. Enquiries: 0705 372222. Dealing: 0705 387730				
American Acc	48.22	51.43	-0.60	0.72
Australian Acc	290.10	311.20	-1.20	...
Conscience	62.82	67.04	-0.03	1.48
-do- Acc	67.46	71.99	-0.03	1.48
European	168.10	179.30	-2.90	1.23
-do- Acc	179.40	191.30	-3.10	1.23
Extra Income	71.02	75.79	+0.33	5.80
-do- Acc	107.10	114.30	+1.00	5.80
Far East Gth	147.50	157.60	-4.00	0.12
Gilt Fxd Inc	58.15	61.55	+0.58	7.49
Gold	29.27	31.47	-0.63	...
-do- Acc	31.52	33.89	-0.68	...
Income	51.07	54.47	+0.50	5.51
-do- Acc	153.10	163.30	+1.50	5.51
International	28.41	30.45	-0.20	0.95
-do- Acc	40.81	43.75	-0.30	0.95
Jap Sm Cos Acc	247.10	263.50	-8.70	...
S pore Mly Acc	155.20	166.40	-1.90	...
Smllr Cos Acc	23.68	25.46	-0.04	2
Special Sits	31.69	34.07	-0.45	1.82
-do- Acc	36.16	38.88	+0.52	1.82
Tokyo	64.82	69.14	-2.13	...
-do- Acc	65.48	69.84	-2.15	...
N & P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 35 Fountain St, Manchester M2 2AF. 061 237 5322				
N&P UK Growth	67.01	71.29	+1.47	2.95
N&P Gil Fxd Int	72.97	77.22	+0.01	7.08
N&P Higher Inc	182.20	193.40r	+4.30	5.01
N&P UK Income	98.41	105.26	+2.31	4.13
N&P Intl	84.30	90.65	-0.42	1.98
N&P Smaller Cos	70.80	75.73	+0.38	1.79
NEWTON FUND MANAGERS 2 London Bridge, London SE1 9RA. 071 407 4404				
General	159.24	169.41	+2.98	2.54
Global	272.04	289.41	-3.53	1.39
Growth	103.19	109.78	+1.91	2.50
Income	197.23	209.82	+4.44	4.60
Intl Bond	128.23	136.48	-0.34	8.30
PEARL UNIT TRUST LTD PO Box 500, Peterborough PE2 6BR. 0733 470470. Dealing: 0800 626577				
Growth	137.10	144.30	+3.30	2.78
-do- Acc	237.40	249.80	+5.90	2.78
Income	215.20	229.90	+5.40	3.82
Intl Equity	208.90	222.30	-1.30	1.14
-do- Acc	228.70	243.30	-1.40	1.14
Equity	214.00	227.60	+5.80	2.66
-do- Acc	433.00	461.50	+11.40	2.66
UK Intl 25 Acc	67.13	71.41	+1.39	2.73
UK Income	58.52	62.25	+1.63	3.38
UK Smllr Co Acc	67.85	72.16	+1.38	1.75
New Europe Acc	61.38	65.29	+0.01	1.56
PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST 48 Hart Street, Henley on Thames. 0491 417000				
Asian Smllr Mkt	84.80	90.70	-0.78	0.25
PEP Gth Inc	94.82	101.42	+0.79	1.50
Intl Gth	446.25	477.26	+2.62	0.91
Income	284.44	304.22	+6.77	4.13
W wide Recov	277.33	296.61	+0.43	1.06
American Gth	199.10	212.95	-1.66	0.01
Intl Emerg Cos	170.17	182.00	-1.17	0.19
Far East Gth	177.45	189.79	-4.02	0.28
European Gth	109.94	117.59	-1.23	1.02
UK Growth	72.18	77.20	+1.87	3.07
High Income	78.24	83.68	+1.87	5.13
Japanese Gth	160.83	171.58	-3.24	0.01
PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Walbrook Hse, 23 Walbrook, London EC4N 8LD. Dealing: 0800 262443				
International	166.60	177.40	-3.10	0.94
High Income	107.70	114.50	+3.30	3.79
Conv Gilt	109.10	116.10r	+2.60	6.79
Far East	280.10	298.00	-11.50	0.35
PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 1 Seaxon Hse Sq, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. 0622 674751				
American	50.00	53.19	-0.16	0.55
Emerging Mkts	61.46	65.38	+2.02	0.23

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
General	47.40	50.43	+1.08	3.40
International	82.01	87.24	+0.25	1.31
Gilt Units	25.76	26.56r	+0.33	8.01
Global PEP	34.98	37.21	-0.32	2.10
Income Gth	62.43	66.41r	+1.41	5.30
European	42.67	45.39r	-0.86	1.17
Gilt/Fixed Int	25.64	27.28r	+0.18	6.11
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD 51/59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex IG1 2DL. 081 478 3377. Pricelink 0426 925091				
Pru Mngd Tst**	29.26	31.29r	+0.51	1.63
Pru Csh Hvn Inc	101.09	101.09r	-0.08	5.60
-do- Acc	104.15	104.19r	+0.09	5.60
Pru Equity	665.02	700.55	+15.51	2.42
Pru Equity Inc	79.22	84.72r	+2.10	4.47
Pru European	171.43	183.34	-0.07	1.84
Pru Global Gth	76.14	81.43r	+0.60	1.58
Pru High Inc	86.16	92.14	+2.03	5.57
Pru Intl	150.74	161.21r	-0.77	1.34
Pru Intl Sm Co	63.81	68.24	-0.45	0.94
Pru Japanese	144.05	154.06r	-2.85	...
Pru Nth Amer	142.45	152.35	-1.67	0.46
Pru Pacific Mkt	71.62	76.59r	-0.41	1.84
Pru Premr Inc	49.89	51.95r	+0.51	7.37
Pru Smllr Cos	80.13	85.70	+1.99	2.02
Pru Spec Sits	97.33	104.09	+2.34	2.23
Pru UK Growth	108.43	115.96r	+2.40	2.34
** Formerly Holborn Trust				
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT LTD St Swithin's Lane, London EC4N 8NR. Dealing: 071 634 2981/4				
NC Income	153.28	164.98	+4.63	3.66
NC Japan	214.63	230.01	-6.58	...
NC Maj UK Cos	92.74	99.80	+2.69	2.52
NC America Inc	471.94	506.34	-0.87	0.57
-do- Acc	548.16	588.11	-1.02	0.57
NC Smlr UK Cos	249.07	271.46r	+2.17	1.86
NC European	247.21	263.49	-3.13	1.54
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP 16-22 Western Rd, Romford RM1 3LB. 0708 766966 or 0800 929929 (IFAs only)				
Amer Inc Gth	72.69	77.26	-0.59	3.95
Capital Units	140.00	148.90	+2.50	1.50
Commodity	93.86	99.85r	-1.55	1.34
European Gth	149.50	159.00	+1.30	1.46
Financial Sec	165.60	176.10	+2.60	2.02
High Return	207.80	221.00	+3.30	4.92
High Yield	205.00	218.00	+5.40	4.38
Income Units	107.50	114.30r	+1.60	5.13
Investment	167.30	177.90	+3.10	1.55
Japan Gth	112.20	119.30	-3.20	...
Japan Smaller	152.80	162.50	-4.30	...
Masterfund	44.03	46.84	+0.11	1.02
Scotbits	241.30	256.50	+4.00	2.15
Scotshares	246.00	261.70	-2.50	2.75
Scotyields	219.60	233.60r	+7.30	3.98
Select Intl	124.30	132.20	..	0.70
Smaller Cos	209.70	223.00	+2.70	4.60
Special Situation	106.70	113.50	+2.40	0.79
UK Equity	219.90	233.90r	+6.10	3.01
US Growth	140.50	149.40r	-1.00	0.30
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD 33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 8AS. Client line: 0800 526 535. Broker line: 0800 526 540				
American	240.97	257.03	-0.40	0.70
-do- Acc	260.33	277.68	-0.43	0.70
Australian	130.77	139.48r	+1.98	0.25
-do- Acc	153.23	163.44	+2.32	0.25
UK Enterprise	202.70	216.21r	+6.01	3.02
-do- Acc	234.16	249.76	+6.93	3.02
European Gth	60.92	64.98r	-0.61	1.34
-do- Acc	63.07	67.27	-0.62	1.34
Euro Smllr Cos	55.30	58.98r	-0.56	0.70
-do- Acc	55.68	59.38	-0.56	0.70
Far Eastern Gth	63.49	67.72r	-0.88	...
-do- Acc	64.60	68.90	-0.90	...
Fixed Interest	52.31	55.15r	-0.91	8.60
-do- Acc	64.28	67.77	+0.61	8.60
Gilt Income	102.89	108.43r	-2.32	8.35
-do- Acc	143.79	151.53r	+1.80	8.35
Income	296.32	316.07r	+1.58	4.54
-do- Acc	874.19	932.47	+21.53	4.54
Japan Enterprise	51.26	54.67	-1.28	...
-do- Acc	51.26	54.67	-1.28	...
Japan Smllr Cos	330.45	352.48r	-4.74	...
-do- Acc	331.52	353.18	-4.75	...
Pacific Gth	82.41	87.90r	-0.46	0.55
-do- Acc	84.98	90.64	-0.48	0.55
Smaller Cos	181.78	193.89r	+1.21	1.29
-do- Acc	208.32	222.20	+1.38	1.29
Tokyo	81.50	86.93r	-3.16	...
-do- Acc	82.32	87.81	-3.19	...
UK Equity	201.94	215.40r	+4.51	3.19
-do- Acc	373.97	398.90	+8.36	3.19
US Smllr Cos	128.83	137.41	+2.91	...
-do- Acc	128.83	137.41	+2.91	...
World Fd	67.70	72.21r	+0.29	1.73
-do- Acc	71.45	76.20	+0.30	1.73
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 150 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5NQ. 041 204 2200				
Equity Income	42.56	45.33	+0.81	4.38
Equity Strategy	61.63	65.64	+1.31	1.86
European Opps	71.47	76.12	-0.83	3.22
Maximum Inc	97.85	100.43	+0.12	3.68
UK Smaller Cos	47.80	50.91	+0.69	3.21
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh. 031 225 2211				
UK Equity	339.50	363.00	+7.40	2.96
American	249.60	264.90	-1.00	0.94
Pacific	289.80	309.90	-3.20	0.83
European	446.70	477.80	-4.40	1.25
Worldwide	76.16	81.45	-0.41	1.27
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT 109 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5HN. 041 248 6100				
UK Equity	301.50	320.80	+7.60	2.65
UK Sm Cos Eqty	191.60	203.90	+1.80	2.71
European	324.70	345.50	-0.80	1.79
North American	252.30	268.50	-1.70	0.62
Income Plus Inc	63.78	67.86r	+1.37	3.98
UK Spec Sits	64.58	68.71r	+1.65	2.52
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD 6 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2YA. 031 558 2341/2/3				
Equity Gth Acc	25.02	26.78	+0.70	3.13
Intl Growth Acc	27.21	29.12	-0.16	1.10
Global Inc Acc	30.61	32.76	+0.32	3.99
Market Ldrs Acc	25.64	27.44r	+0.63	2.93
SG TOUCHE REMNANT Mermaid Hse, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT. 071 248 1250				
American Gth	83.11	88.88r	+0.36	...
Euro Spec Sits	43.06	45.78	+0.22	...
-do- Acc	45.61	48.48	+0.24	...
Far East Opps	30.01	32.90	+0.05	...
-do- Acc	30.83	33.28	+0.05	...
General Growth	97.86	104.80	+1.60	2.39
Global Tech	116.70	125.90	-0.20	...
Income Growth	98.34	105.70	+2.20	3.90
Income Monthly	56.29	60.10	+0.71	5.23
Japan Growth	65.39	69.95	-1.10	...
Overseas Gth	72.41	77.06	-0.86	...
Smaller Cos	69.17	74.37	+1.27	1.90
Special Opps	97.87	105.30r	+2.80	1.99
Wld Spec Sits	43.91	47.24r	-0.25	...
-do- Acc	44.03	47.35r	-0.25	...
STANDARD LIFE TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 3 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ. 0800 393777				
Managed	42.99	45.66	+0.72	1.85
Equity Gth Acc	57.81	61.43	+1.02	1.24

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Eq General	41.92	44.54	+1.18	2.36
-do- Acc	55.00	58.44	+1.55	2.36
European Acc	41.25	43.84	+0.41	1.28
Far East Acc	48.07	51.08	-0.02	0.37
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	30.82	32.60	+0.39	6.59
N American Acc	44.84	47.65	-0.24	0.73
O/s Lgr Cos Acc	257.10	279.00	-0.90	1.73
UK Eq High Inc	34.50	36.66	+0.73	3.93
-do- Acc	40.41	42.94	+0.86	3.93
UK Lgr Cos Inc	288.40	313.00	+9.00	3.81
UK Lgr Cos Acc	371.00	402.60	+11.60	3.81
STATE STREET UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD Birchin Court, 20 Birchin Lane, London EC3V 9AQ. 071 626 1977				
Global A	NZ$3.33	NZ$3.54	-0.01	1.11
US Eq	$2.017	$2.142	+0.13	0.71
Far East Eq	Y191.1	Y202.9	-2.40	...
Japan Eq	Y194.2	Y206.2	-4.00	...
FT Europe	113.20	120.20	+0.40	1.67
FT North Am	$1.721	$1.824	+0.02	0.89
FT Japan	Y190.2	Y202.0	-3.10	...
FT Asia Ex Jap	118.60	125.90	+0.20	1.41
STEWART IVORY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh. 031 226 3271				
American	352.10	374.00	-3.00	0.29
British	912.90	965.80r	+3.10	4.67
European	372.30	396.50	-5.00	1.61
Japan	119.40	127.00	-2.30	...
New Pacific	285.80	304.20	-1.70	1.36
Mngd Cash	96.07	96.07	+0.08	5.39
Majority Stlg	100.26	101.26	+0.07	5.27
Inv Tst	179.70	190.50r	+1.60	2.02
Saints PPP	366.00	385.30	...	...
SUN ALLIANCE Admin, 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex. 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690389				
Equity Acc	719.10	769.30	+16.90	2.35
N America Acc	112.90	120.70	-0.40	0.16
Far East Acc	108.90	116.50	-1.70	...
W wide Bond	63.63	67.55	-0.22	5.16
European	81.18	86.82	-0.23	0.53
Equity Income	80.80	86.42	+2.49	3.76
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ. Dealing: 0256 841414				
American Gth	34.74	37.16	-0.33	0.86
Managed Assets	115.99	124.06	+1.49	3.92
UK Income	36.16	38.68	+1.07	3.45
UK Growth	35.73	38.22	+0.78	3.01
Worldwide Gth	29.03	31.05	-0.29	0.61
TSB UNIT TRUSTS LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE. 0264 346794				
American	204.49	217.54	-0.48	0.19
-do- Acc	224.59	238.93	-0.52	0.19
British Gth	84.27	89.65	+0.87	2.21
-do- Acc	98.34	104.62	+1.02	2.21
European	91.24	97.06r	-0.80	1.17
-do- Acc	96.24	102.38r	-0.84	1.17
Extra Inc	181.58	193.17r	+4.56	4.28
-do- Acc	289.82	308.11r	+7.27	4.28
General Unit	257.95	274.41r	+2.84	2.65
-do- Acc	508.98	541.47r	+5.60	2.65
Income	313.54	333.55	+2.51	3.91
-do- Acc	638.63	679.39	+5.12	3.91
International	473.60	503.83	-7.57	0.67
-do- Acc	619.07	658.59	-9.89	0.67
Pacific	312.20	332.13	-6.24	0.04
-do- Acc	326.96	347.83	-6.54	0.04
Premier Income	50.98	53.10	+0.54	7.73
-do- Acc	104.70	109.06	+1.11	7.73
Nat Resources	89.19	94.88	-3.99	0.98
-do- Acc	97.80	104.04	-4.37	0.98
Selected Opps	92.42	98.32	+1.78	1.23
-do- Acc	115.40	122.77	+2.22	1.23
TARGET TRUST MANAGERS Charlton Place, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1RE. 0264 346747				
American Eagle	125.00	133.60	-0.30	0.23
Australia	7.125	7.660r	+0.00	1.05
Equity	180.80	193.50	+4.20	4.41
Euro Spec Sits	140.60	149.10	-1.60	0.58
Financial	38.61	41.30	+0.63	2.94
Global Opps Inc	86.72	92.60	-0.62	2.17
-do- Acc	89.88	95.98	-0.64	2.17
Gold Gen Inc	40.83	43.90	-0.34	1.00
-do- Acc	77.91	83.77	-0.63	1.00
Income	117.00	125.10r	+1.60	4.93
Japan General	122.70	130.50	-3.00	...
Preference	22.13	23.80	+0.19	7.62
UK Capital	101.70	108.70r	+1.60	3.10
Worldwide Cap	194.50	207.60	+1.20	3.10
World Income	82.73	88.09	-0.81	3.45
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 33 Cavendish Sq, London W1M 7HF. 071 493 7262. Dealing: 071 493 8545				
Amer Smll Cos	68.42	72.99r	-3.15	...
-do- Acc	70.58	75.28r	-3.26	...
Cash	51.39	51.39	+0.04	6.23
-do- Acc	61.16	61.16	+0.05	6.23
European Opps	62.15	66.25	-0.47	0.44
-do- Acc	62.79	66.93	-0.49	0.44
Far East Opps	136.72	145.83	-1.57	0.67
-do- Acc	139.90	149.22	-1.62	0.67
Gold/Nat Res	37.55	40.05	-1.40	...
-do- Acc	38.61	41.18	-1.44	...
Japan	63.46	67.64	-0.91	...
-do- Acc	63.46	67.64	-0.91	...
Little Dragons	65.13	69.47	-1.25	0.72
-do- Acc	66.81	71.26	-1.29	0.72
Oriental Income	40.45	43.14	-0.34	3.69
-do- Acc	51.06	54.46	-0.42	3.69
Tiger	208.77	222.68	-0.98	1.18
-do- Acc	218.57	232.92	-1.03	1.18
UK Small Cos	65.61	70.23r	-1.93	2.32
-do- Acc	76.46	81.77r	-2.26	2.32
UNITED CHARITIES UNIT TRUSTS Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7. 081 534 5544				
United Charities	204.80	218.40	-12.40	...
WAVERLEY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 13 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh EH2 4DJ. 031 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	11.66	12.40	+0.20	0.50
Pacific Basin	30.14	32.06	-0.49	0.60
Canadian Gth	37.10	39.46	-0.94	0.10
Global Bond	$0.981	$1.001	+0.02	7.21
Penny Share	20.88	22.21	+0.68	1.50
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 2 Honey Lane, London EC2V 8BT. 071 606 3172				
City Reserve	52.28	52.28	+0.04	5.83
Gilt Growth	66.17	68.88	+0.62	...
Gilt Income	53.13	55.29	+0.54	8.00
Short Dtd Gilt	110.10	111.60	+0.30	4.47
US Govmnt Bd	$0.713	$0.723	+0.00	...
Challenger	94.09	96.29	-0.49	...
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 1 White Oak Square, Swanley BR8 7AG. 0705 388046				
Stockmarket Fd	66.45	70.90	+1.58	2.23

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); r Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; .... No significant data.

هكذا من الأصل

England hungry for safe and speedy return of its most accomplished striker

Shearer: a predator devoured by power game



Rob Hughes, football correspondent, on a victim of the modern game's tragic failure to rid itself of its obsession with physical prowess

Whatever drama the FA Cup tie between Blackburn Rovers and Sheffield United brings to Ewood Park today, the game itself will sorely miss Alan Shearer. We are all paying — Blackburn, England, sport — for that terrible rending of cartilage inside his knee that has taken out that most predatory forward at a time crucial to his club and country.

Blackburn Rovers without him are a team without its leader, a stubborn, well-organised side whose five defeats and only two wins in his absence are clear evidence that the new, expensive Blackburn era is lost without him.

The injury may also be a reflection of playing too many games at too reckless a pace for flesh and blood to stand.

Shearer may try to hide his feelings, yet a footballer without a game is as content as a writer without a pen, a violinist without a bow. He aches inside. He is hollow without performance. He dreads Saturday cup-ties. In Shearer, we are discussing a player who visibly transcended his team for half a season. Centre forward, goalscorer, inspiration, his presence lifted Blackburn. From the opening game against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park, where he scored two remarkable 30-yard goals, his aggressiveness, his hunger, gave the opposition no respite and gave his own team belief.

While he led, the two wingers had a focus: Mike Newell's prodigious running had purpose, and even the weaknesses in defence were not exploited. Since his departure, at Elland Road on Boxing day, Roy Wegerle has proved a mercurial £1 million reserve but simply not a replacement. There is not one in the country.

For Shearer, read David Hirst, Dalian Atkinson, Ian Wright — all the alternatives denied when England last needed a forward line. All, incidentally, were hurt not through dirty play but through muscle and sinew torn at pace, or by whiplash turns.

It is easy to condemn once again English football's reckless reliance on speed and power. That, obviously, is fatiguing. But abroad, Ruud Gullit's powers have waned since his right knee has had to be rebuilt four times, and Marco van Basten struggles through doubt that he will make the World Cup qualifying tie at Wembley in April because his ankle refuses to have nature's healing process hurried after another operation.

Though man's preparation is supposedly superior, the surgical expertise more advanced, a suspicion grows that, like racehorses, we may be making the upper body so efficient for speed and stamina that the undercarriage, the weight-bearing joints, buckle under the stress.

"Soccer is indeed a violent game," Shearer's surgeon said after predicting that he needs six months to overcome the injury. There can be no guarantees, and it would be cruel as well as fruitless to try to probe Shearer's hopes and fears. Privacy has its rights even in today's keyhole society.

Besides, what does Shearer know? He is 22, this has never happened to him before, and even if it scared the kneebrace off him, he is professional enough to put up an optimistic front. Yet it may frighten him that a man from his corner of the world, Brian Clough, was finished by knee damage on another Boxing day, in 1962. A violent game indeed.

Shearer's compensations are that his team-mates might still reach Wembley, and would share their bonuses with him. He has a guaranteed comfortable start in life for his wife and baby, and if Blackburn follow the surgeon's warnings, give him every moment of time it requires, there seems no reason to suspect that the cartilage will not see out his career.

What nobody can speculate on is the will of the patient, in Shearer's case built on extraordinary appetite for the game.

A character witness to the way he uncomplainingly took the buffeting while scoring 22 goals in his 26 games this season is Derek Dooley. "I would say that the team lives on Shearer, at Blackburn as it did at Southampton," Dooley said. He has a special affinity to Blackburn's No. 9. For one thing, he has just retired as managing director of their quarter-final opponents today, Sheffield United. For another, he was a notably brave centre forward himself, scoring 62 times in 59 games for Sheffield's other club, Wednesday, before injury cut him down.

Dooley then was the age Shearer is now. He expected to score every time he laced up his boots. "The game has changed, but bravery hasn't altered one bit," he said. "It always gets a bit naughty, but you expect that at No. 9. It is a man's game, and watching Shearer I got the same feeling that I had when I scored 46 goals in 1952. You think you will score every game, you are frightened of nobody."

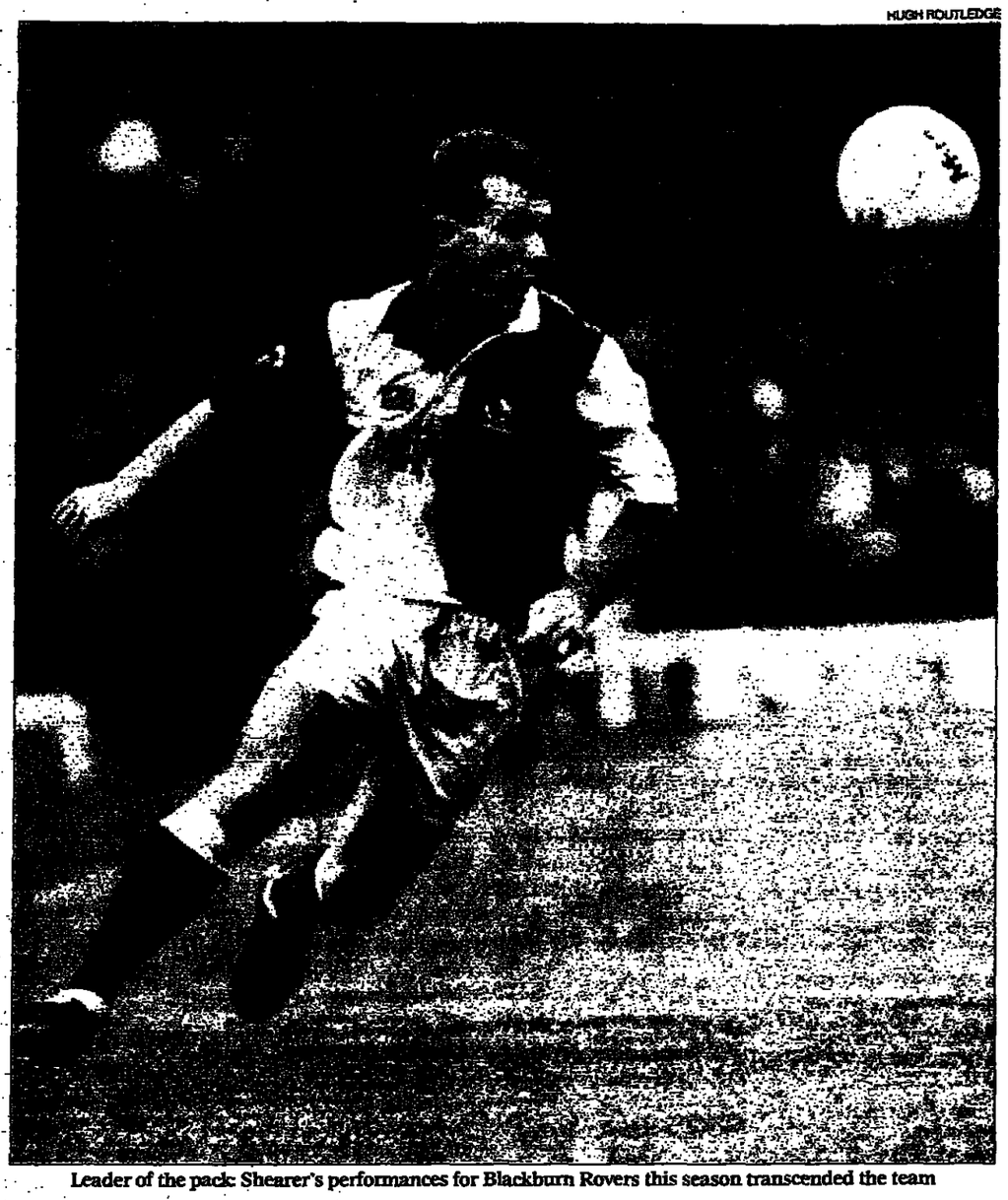
Dooley has his own testimonial match in Sheffield on May 11. He needs the money, but he says he envies nobody, least of all Shearer. "I am a shining example of how, at 23, it can all end," he said.

It came to Dooley in a 50-50 collision with a Preston goalkeeper. "From my point of view, I had only a couple of days wondering if I would play again because they told me it was a clean break. I would get over it," he said. "Then the complications set in, the bloody leg was amputated." He says that with the merest tremor of emotion. It happened 40 years ago. The complication was gangrene, and he recalls: "I was 23, next to nothing in the bank, six months married, no house, and no idea of a trade. But I feel lucky: the game has given me 40 years' involvement. I wouldn't change it."

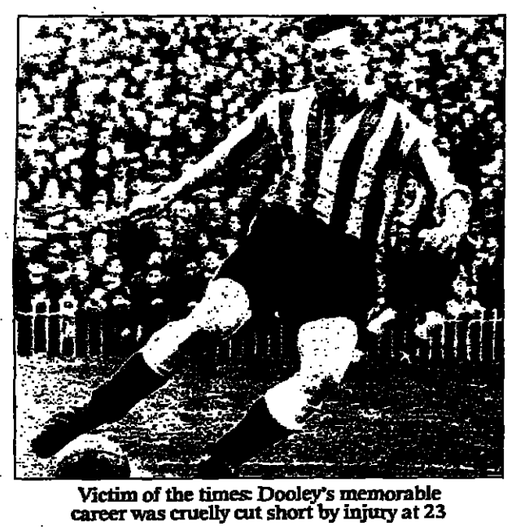
Dooley's message is to take the glory, the rewards, while they last. The legacy might be quick, or as insidiously slow as the migraines that later affected Tommy Lawton and Jackie Milburn, or the thrombosis that cost Dixie Dean a leg long after his record season of 60 goals in 39 matches. In Dean's case, stoical bravery in allowing them to hack his calves black and blue reaped only £8 a week.

When we read of Shearer's alleged £8,000 per game, envy can blind us to think of the goalscorer as a commodity in a business market. He is passing through, he is human, and as susceptible to the frailties of flesh, hearts and mind as you and I. But his work cycle is accelerated, his rewards and pitfalls exaggerated. For his sake, for Blackburn and England, we hope he is soon bulging the back of nets again.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Leader of the pack: Shearer's performances for Blackburn Rovers this season transcended the team



Victim of the times: Dooley's memorable career was cruelly cut short by injury at 23

Francis listens and learns as Wednesday go for glory

David Powell discovers how Trevor Francis, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, has led his side to the brink of leading honours

SHEFFIELD Wednesday are the team you cannot get away from this season. Unlike the Premier League's leading three, Aston Villa, Manchester United and Norwich City, who are out of both domestic cups, Wednesday are still in two. They are also fourth in the league, ready to pounce should those above meet banana skins.

The schemer behind Wednesday's consistency is Trevor Francis, the manager who succeeded Ron Atkinson at the beginning of last season. Atkinson is not the act you would choose to follow but Francis, his playing boots still warm, has managed it as if the slipper was made to fit.

When Atkinson left, Francis came not with a broom but an understanding that, if something is working, it is best not tampered with. Richie Barker, a manager at three league clubs, has been assistant to both men at Wednesday, the right-hand man at Hillsborough for the last four years, and is full of praise for Francis.

"He is not as flamboyant as Ron," he said. "Ron is the best manager in the country of men and a big club; Trevor is different. When he took over, the club did not need a lot doing to it.

"We had just come back up into the first division and had won the Rumbelows Cup. It needed two or three signings and it needed to be run in similar fashion to how it was being run. Most managers get jobs because a club is unsuccessful but he was in the unusual position of taking over a job that was gathering momentum.

"He came in and made hardly any changes at all. One of his strengths is that his attention to detail is immense. He is attentive to the slightest thing that might need changing on the field. He knows what he wants and his ideas are excellent."

Francis listens, too. With both his main forwards, Hirst and Bright injured, Paul Warhurst was moved from defence into attack and proceeded to set a club post-war scoring record. By finding the net in seven successive matches, he exceeded the run of six of Redfearn Froggatt in 1958. Had it been Francis's decision to move Warhurst forward?

His decision, yes; his idea, no. "If we were truthful, I do not think it was first mooted by Trevor," Barker said. "Sometimes out of the mouth of someone you think does not know about football a pearl of wisdom comes. Trevor thought about the suggestion and tried it." Whose notion it was, Barker would not say.

When Hirst returns — the signs are hopeful he may be ready for the FA Cup quarter-final away to Derby County on Monday — Francis will presumably return Warhurst into defence. Or will he?

"If he keeps knocking in goals, we may look at him and say we cannot do without him, he's our No. 1 striker," Barker said. "He can play anywhere and has all the attributes of a top-class player — good feet, good pace, skill, strength. What a position for England going to the World Cup to have someone on the bench who is like a gazelle at the back and can score goals. The perfect substitute."

Given his experience, Barker is a useful man to have around for big cup-ties. As either manager, assistant or coach, he has been to two FA Cup semi-finals and two League Cup finals. Adding a gloss finish, he reminds you of an African Cup final and a Welsh one, too.

His day-to-day task at Wednesday is the coaching. For the last fortnight, he must have begun to wonder whether there would any players left to coach. Injuries have afflicted many of his best men — Shirtliff, Hirst, Pearson, Harkes and Wilson, to name but five.

Francis claims that at no stage this season has he been able to pick his strongest side. Barker said: "We have had injuries all term but more than our fair share this last couple of weeks."

Wednesday are as good as in the Coca-Cola Cup final and defend a 4-2 lead from the first leg of their semi-final when they entertain Blackburn Rovers in the return a week tomorrow. They have not given up on the championships yet.

"There is still a nagging hope but it's a long shot," Barker said. "When you are still in two cups, it's a long shot. It's not if you are out of the two cups."



Francis: fits the bill

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

FA Cup

Sixth round

Blackburn v Sheffield Utd (all ticket)

Ipswich v Arsenal (all ticket)

Premier League

Liverpool v Manchester Utd (all ticket)

QPR v Norwich

Wimbledon v Southampton

Barclays League

First division

Barnsley v Leicester

Birmingham v Oxford Utd

Bristol City v Tranmere

Millwall v Sunderland

Newcastle v Brentford

Notts County v Bristol Rovers

Peterborough v Grimsby

Portsmouth v Luton

Southend v Charlton

Watford v Swindon

West Ham v Wolverhampton

Second division

Blackpool v Hartlepool

Bolton v Leyton Orient

Bournemouth v Exeter

Bradford v Hull

Brighton v Port Vale

Fulham v Reading

Huddersfield v Rotherham

Mansfield v Wigan

Plymouth v Preston

Stoke v Chester

West Bromwich v Burnley

Third division

Crewe v Gillingham

Halifax v Carlisle

Lincoln v Northampton

Rochdale v Cardiff

Scarborough v Bury

Scunthorpe v Chesterfield

Shrewsbury v Barnet

Torquay v Darlington

Wrexham v Hereford

GM Vauxhall Conference

Altrincham v Woking

Bath v Macclesfield

Bromsgrove v Stalybridge

Farnborough v Dagenham and Redbridge

Northwich v Boston

Slough v Runcorn

Telford v Gateshead

Welling v Stafford

Witton v Merthyr

Wycombe v Kettering

Yeovil v Kidderminster

Tennents Scottish Cup

Fifth round

Aberdeen v Clydebank

Arbroath v Rangers

Hearts v Falkirk

Hibernian v St Johnstone

Scottish League

Premier division

Airdrie v Dundee Utd

Dundee v Motherwell

First division

Ayr v Cowdenbeath

Hamilton v Dumbarton

Raith v Morton

St Mirren v Dunfermline

Stirling v Kilmarnock

Second division

Berwick v Clyde

East Fife v Alloa

Forfar v Stenhousemuir

Montrose v Albion

Queen of South v Brechin

Stranraer v Queen's Park

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Harrow; Basingstoke v Windsor and Eton; Bognor v St Albans; Chesham v Yeading; Dulwich v Stevenage; Enfield v Carshalton; Grays v Kingstonian; Marlow v Hayes, Staines v Bromley; Sutton United v Hendon; Wokingham v Wivenhoe. First division: Abingdon v Tooting and Mitcham; Barking v Molesey; Bishops Stortford v Aveley; Boreham Wood v Chalfont St Peter; Hitchin v Dorking, Lewes v Wembley; Leyton v Whyteleafe; Maidenhead v Corinthian; Uxbridge v Purfleet; Walton and Hersham v Billericay. Second division: Barnstead v Berkhamsted; Chertsey v Newbury; Egham v Barton; Harefield v Edgware; Hemel Hampstead v Worthing; Hungerford v Ruislip Manor; Leatherhead v Tilbury; Rainham v Southall; Saffron Walden v Maldon Vale; Ware v Metropolitan Police; Witham v Hampton. Third division: Aldershot Town v Fleckwell Heath; Brocknell v Royston; East Thurrock v Thame; Epsom and Ewell v Tring, Feltham and Hounslow v Collier Row; Hornchurch v Horsham, Kingsbury v Petersfield; Leighton v Clapton; Northwood v Cove.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Bishop Auckland; Frickley v Barrow; Goole v Leek; Horwich v Buxton; Hyde v Chorley; Marine v Fleetwood; Morecambe v Colwyn Bay; Mossley v Emley; Southport v Gainsborough, Winsford v Matlock. First division: Brodington Town v Shepshed Albion; Great Harwood v Knowsley; Gretna v Curzon Ashton; Harrogate v Congleton; Netherfield v Guiseley; Radcliffe Borough v Ashton United; Rossendale v Eastwood Town; Workington v Caernarfon; Workisop v Warrington. First division cup: Farsley Celtic v Lancaster City.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cambridge City v Waterlooville; Cheltenham v Hastings; Crawley Town v Moor Green, Gloucester v Bashley; Halesowen v Corby Town; Hednesford v Burton; Solihull v Dorchester; Trowbridge v Dover; Weymouth v Athenstone; Worcester v VS Rugby. Midland division: Bedworth v RC Warwick; Bilston v King's Lynn; Bridgnorth v Yate; Dudley v Leicester United, Grantham v Redditch; Gresley v Weston-super-Mare; Hinckley v Barn; Rushden and Diamonds v Forest Green, Stourbridge v Tamworth; Sutton Coldfield v Evesham. Southern division: Bury Town v Braintree; Canterbury v Newport IOW; Dunstable v Ashford; Fareham v Erith and Belvedere; Fisher Athletic v Baldock; Gravesend and Northfleet v Buckingham, Havant v Wealdstone; Margate v Burnham; Stringbourne v Salisbury; Sudbury v Andover; Witney v Poole.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Ballymena; Ballyclare v Cliftonville; Crusaders v Linfield; Glentoran v Coleraine; Lama v Distillery; Newry v Glenavon; Omagh Town v Bangor; Portadown v Carrick.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Bangor (2.0); Afan Lido v Caerawa; Cwmbran v Conwy (2.30); Ebbw Vale v Flint Town; Holywell v Haverfordwest (2.30); Inter Cardiff v Llanidloes (12.0); Maesteg Park v Mold; Newtown v Llanelli; Porthmadog v Abergavenny

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Brightlingsea v Diss; Felixstowe v Chatteris; Halstead v Gorleston; Haverhill v Harwich and Parkeston; March Town v Lowestoft; Norwich United v Brantham Athletic; Stowmarket v Histon; Tiptree v Watton. League Cup: Semi-final: Cornard v Wisbech; Newmarket v Wroxham.

ABACUS WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Ammanford v Cardiff Civil Service; Bleanhonddu v Bridgend; Bracon v Port Talbot; Caerleon v Caldicot; Morriston v Ramdale; Pembroke v Pontypridd; Ton Pentre v Aberaman.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bacup Borough v Darwen; Bamber Bridge v Flixton; Blackpool Rovers v St Helens, Chadderton v Kidsgrove Athletic; Clitheroe v Eastwood Hanley; Maine Road (Main) v Penrith, Newcastle Town v Blackpool Mechanics; Salford City v Atherton LR; Stalmansdale v Bradford Park Avenue. Challenge Cup: Semi-finals: Burscough v Prescot; Nantwich v Glossop North End.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham v Bideford; Exmouth v Bristol Manor Farm; Liskeard Athletic v Dawlish; Paulton v Torrington; Taunton v Minehead; Tiverton v Plymouth Argyle; Westbury v Mangotsfield.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Pontefract Col; Ashfield v Thackley; Glasshoughton Welfare v Liversedge; Harrogate Rg v Eccleshill, North Ferriby v Dinnsby; Ossett Albion v Spennymoor; Pickering v Belper; Sheffield v Ossett Town. Stocksbridge PS v Winterton

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Brandon v Easington Colliery; Chester le Street v Whitby; Durham City v Billingham Synthonia; Ferryhill Athletic v Gursborough; Hebburn v Seaham Red Star; Newcastle Blue Star v Consett; Northallerton v West Auckland; Stockton v Blyth Spartans; Tow Law v Peterlee Newtown.

SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Watford; Gillingham v Cambridge United; Ipswich v West Ham; Millwall v Chelsea; Norwich v Charlton, Portsmouth v Southend, QPR v Fulham; Tottenham v Leyton Orient. Second division: Bournemouth v Brentford; Bristol Rovers v Luton, Colchester v Brighton, Crystal Palace v Wimbledon, Reading v Oxford United; Southampton v Tottenham; Swindon v Bristol City.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Civil Service v Carshalton, Wes: Wickham v Old Parkonians; Crouch End Vampires v Old Actonians; Old Esthamseans v South Bank Poly; Norseman v Nat West Bank; Winchmore Hill v Lloyds Bank; Polytechnic v Southgate Olympic; Ibis v Kew Association, Old Stationers v Alexandra Park; Old Salesians v Broomfield; Old Parmiterians v Bank of England; Aileyn Old Boys v Old Westminster Cits., Brentham v East Barnet OG; Cuaco v Royal Bank of Scotland; Old Latymerians v Old Lyonians; Reigate Priory v Merton.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Carthusians v Old Bradfieldians, Old Chigwellians v Old Etonians; Old Meliseans v Old Wellingbunians First division: Old Aldenhamians v Old Wykehamists; *Old Foresters v Old* Harrovians; Old Westminsters v Old Haileybunians, Old Wilkens v Old Salopians Arthur Dunn Cup: Semi-final: Old Reptonians v Old Brentwoods

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v Chertsey; Danes v Glyn, Ignatians v Enfield, Tensonians v Aldysians, Tiffinians v Wilsonians

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: First division: Nottsborough v Southgate County; Old Finchleians v Mill Hill Village, Old Owens v Old Beaulonians, Parkfield v Old Grammarians, Wilsn v Old Fairlopians.

RUGBY UNION

3.0 unless stated

Five nations' championship

England v Scotland (at Twickenham, 2.45)

Wales v Ireland (at Cardiff Arms Park, 2.30)

Club matches

Broughton Park v Newcastle Gosforth (3.0)

Cambridge University v Bradford and Bingley (12.0)

Coventry v Nottingham

Fylde v Leeds

Havant v Thurrock (1.30)

Hereford v Plymouth (2.30)

Lichfield v Berry Hill (2.30)

London Scottish v Edinburgh Academicals (11.0)

Met Police v Askeans (11.0)

Morley v Liverpool St Helens

Sheffield v Vale of Lune (2.30)

Wakefield v Orrell

Waterloo v Harrogate

Watsonians v Musselburgh (12.15)

West Hartlepool v Sale

Universities match

English v Scottish (at London Welsh, 11.0)

MCEWAN'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Morgan Acad FP v Gordonians. Fourth division: Aberdeen GS FP v Trinity Academicals.

RUGBY LEAGUE

OPENCAST NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Askam v Heworth, Dewsbury Celtic v Leigh East, Leigh Miners v Dudley Hill, Saddleworth v Egremont; Wigan St Patricks v Millom, West Hull v Wooleton.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Billingham Bombers v Nonwich and Peterborough Pirates, Bracknell Bees v *Durham Wasps; Nottingham Panthers v* Cardiff Devils. First division: Milton Keynes Kings v Sheffield Steelers, Slough Jets v Medway Bears; Swindon Wildcats v Telford Tigers

HOCKEY

PERONI SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League A: Anchorians v Eastcote; Bournemouth v Ramsgate, Hampstead and Westminster v Maidenhead; High Wycombe v Lloyds Bank, Old Whitgiftians v Old *Tauntonians*; Staines v Blackheath; Tulse Hill v Ashford, Weybridge Hawks v Oxford Hawks; Worthing v Wimpledon Premier League B: Beckenham v Purley, Cheam v Dulwich, Chichester v City of Portsmouth, Fareham v Wokingham, Gore Court v Winchester; Marden Russets v London University; Old Williamsonians v Woking; Oxford University v Old Bordenians, Spencer v Tunbridge Wells. Regionals: Hampshire and Surrey: Basingstoke v Walton, Fleet v Cosm; Merton v Hembie Old Boys, Metropolitan Police v Barnes; Old Mid Whitgiftians v Andover; Old Wallcountians v Lensbury; Oxshott v Old Edwardians; Oxted v Camberley; Pirate v Epsom. Kent and Sussex: Brighton v Old Holcombeians; Crowborough v BICC, Eastbourne v Rochester and Gillingham, Gravesend v Bognor; Greenwich v Midland Bank; Herne Bay v Tonbridge; Horsham v Mid Sussex; Sevenoaks v Old Beccehamians; Thames Poly v Lewes Middlesex, Berkshire, Bucks and Oxon; *Aylesbury v Enfield; Amersham* v City of Oxford; Bracknell v HCC, Mill Hill v Hendon; Morris Motors v Marlow, NPL v Old *Merchant Taylors', Southgate Adelaide* v Gerrards Cross; Sunbury v Hayes, Windsor v Harrow

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishops Stortford v Broxbourne; Colchester v Bluehans, Crosby v Redbridge and Ilford, Ipswich v Cambridge University; Luton v Westcliff; Pelicans v Stevenage; Peterborough v Ford; West Herts v Wisbech

ERNST AND YOUNG NORTH PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Aldcley Edge v York; Durham University v Ben Rhydding; Formby v Wakefield, Norton v Hightown; *Northern, Timperley v Sheffield.* Second division: Halifax v Harrogate, Knutsford v Ramgarhia Preston v Blackburn, Springfields v Bowdon, Southport v Disley; Stockton v Liverpool Sefton, Sunderland v *Sherfield Bankers; Swalwell v Wigan.*

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley v St Albans, Old Loughtonians v Teddington, Reading v Hounslow; Richmond v Old Kingstonians, Wimbledon v Southgate.

ERNST AND YOUNG MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Derby; Bridgnorth v Coventry and North Warwick; *Edgbaston v Worcester Norton*, Hampton in Arden v Leicester Westleigh, Kheisa v Olton and West Warwick.

AEWHA UNDER-21 HOME COUNTRIES TOURNAMENT: England v Wales (9.15), Scotland v Ireland (11.15), England v Ireland (3.0); Wales v Scotland (4.45) (all at Milton Keynes SC).

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Birmingham Bullets v Hemel Hempstead Royals; Cheshire Jets v Manchester Giants, Derby Bucks v Thames Valley Tigers, Guildford Kings v Oldham Celtics; London Towers v Leicester Riders, Worthing Bears v Sunderland Saints.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Billingham Bombers v Nonwich and Peterborough Pirates, Bracknell Bees v *Durham Wasps; Nottingham Panthers v* Cardiff Devils. First division: Milton Keynes Kings v Sheffield Steelers, Slough Jets v Medway Bears; Swindon Wildcats v Telford Tigers

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: Wilmslow v Old Waconians; Timperley v Cheadle; Meller v Heaton Mersey, Poynton v Sheffield Steelers; Stockport v Ashton

BOWLS

HAVEN/COMMERCIAL UNION NATIONAL INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Cyphers v Perdiswell; Stanley v North Walsham (at Lawson Park, Bedford, 2.0).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: WBC super-middleweight championship: Nigel Benn v Mauro Galvano, WBO flyweight championship: Pat Clinton v Jake Matlala (at Glasgow)

FENCING: Challenge Manin international *epée finals (at the Seymour Leisure Centre,* London, 7.30pm).

SNOOKER: Wickes British Open (Derby)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

FA Cup

Sixth round

Manchester City v Tottenham (all ticket, 3.05)

Premier League

Coventry v Everton (12.30)

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS: Group C: South Korea v England (in Melbourne).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second round (3.0 unless stated): Derry City v Athlone Town (3.30), Dundalk v Bohemians (3.30); Limerick v Home Farm; Shamrock Rovers v Waterford United (3.30); Shelbourne v Cork City (3.30); Sligo Rovers v Cobh Ramblers; Tramore Athletic v Glenmore Celtic, UCD v St Patrick's Athletic (3.30)

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Clevedon v Liskeard. Les Phillips Cup: Devizes v Selsash.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Grantham v Nuneaton.

RUGBY UNION

Club match

Blackheath v Saracens (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

British Coal International

France v Great Britain (at Carcassonne, 3.0)

ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL: France v Great Britain (at Carcassonne, 1.0).

Stones Bitter championship

First division

Halifax v Castleford

Leeds v Sheffield

Salford v Hull

Second division

Carlisle v Bramley

Huddersfield v Oldham (3.30)

Rochdale v Featherstone

Swinton v London Crusaders

Third division

Blackpool v Keighley (2.30)

Doncaster v Chorley

Highfield v Nottingham City

Hunslet v Barrow (3.30)

Workington v Batley

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bournville v Surbiton (Birmingham University, 2.30); Cannock v Firebrands (Morris Ground, 2.30), East Grinstead v Bromley (Saint Hill, 2.15); Havant v Stourport (Havant College, 2.15); Hounslow v Neston (Feltham School, 12.0), Old Loughtonians v Southgate (Chigwell, 2.30); St Albans v Canterbury (Clarence Park, 2.0); Teddington v Slough (Teddington School, 2.30); Weston v Trojans (Orchard Park, Hull, 2.0). Second division: Beeston v Chelmsford (Highlands HC, Nottingham, 2.0); Brean v Harleston Magpies (King Alfred SC, Highbridge, 12.0); Cambridge City v Guildford (Hinchingbrook School, Huntingdon, 2.15) Cheltenham v Hereford (Bournside School, Cheltenham, 2.0); *Indian Gymkhana v Doncaster* (Feltham School, 2.0); Lyons v Richmond (Teddington School, 1.0). Old Kingstonians v Brooklands (Lensbury Ground, Teddington, 2.0); Reading v Barford Tigers (Sonning Lane, 2.0), Warrington v Ieca (Broomfield School, Warrington, 1.30)

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Norwich City v Dereham.

AEWHA UNDER-21 HOME COUNTRIES TOURNAMENT: Wales v Ireland (9.15); England v Scotland (11.15) Under-18 club championships (at Woking HC, 10.0).

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: *First division: Thames Valley Tigers* v Cheshire Jets Second division: Brixton Topcats v Bury Lobos; Doncaster Panthers v Barnsley Generals; Middlesbrough Mohawks v Solent Stars Third division: Camberley Eagles v Liverpool Atac; Leicester Falcons v Sheffield Forgers. Women: First division: Ipswich v Thames Valley; Milton Keynes G Cats v London Jets, Nottingham Wildcats v Leicester Second division: Houghton Regs Raiders v South Tyneside; Brixton Lady Topcats v Doncaster Free Press; Cardiff v Stonebridge Amazons.

BOWLS

HAVEN/COMMERCIAL UNION NATIONAL INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Final (Lawson Park, Bedford, 10.0)

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff Devils v Billingham Bombers, Durham Wasps v Nottingham Panthers, Norwich and Peterborough Pirates v Humberside Seahawks. First division: *Medway Bears v Sheffield Steelers; Romford* Raiders v Lee Valley Lions; Swindon Wildcats v Slough Jets.

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NATIONAL BREAKDOWN ALWAYS ON CALL NATIONWIDE

India captain levels one-day international series with brilliant innings

Azharuddin puts England to sword

FROM PETER BALL IN GWALIOR

A BREATHTAKING, undefeated 95 by Mohammad Azharuddin carried India to victory with eight balls to spare yesterday. It was their second successive win at Gwalior and enabled them to draw the six-match one-day international series, thereby removing any hope that England could salvage some self-respect by winning the one-day series after their maulings in the Test matches.

For the second day running, a worthy England century was eclipsed by the Indian riposte. On Thursday, Robin Smith's 129 was overshadowed by Sidhu's match-winning effort. Yesterday, Graeme Hick continued his fine tour by dominating the England innings with an undefeated 105, his first one-day international century.

But admirable as Hick's performance was, it paled beside that of the Indian captain. He ended the one-day series as he began the Test matches, playing the most influential innings of the series, mixing poetry and effectiveness in equal and dramatic proportions.

His contribution meant that every match in the series had gone with the toss, and Azharuddin even got that right. It has only been really decisive twice, for India's victory in the second match at Chandigarh, and England's last week in the truncated game at Jamshedpur, but in the other matches both sides have proved more adept at chasing totals than setting them, or perhaps less adept at defending them.

Set to get 266 in 48 overs, India were again given a solid start. Prabhakar played his biggest innings of the winter to set his side on its way: but, unlike Sidhu, Prabhakar has only one gear and when Azharuddin replaced Kambli with 167 needed off 23 overs, India required some fireworks.

Azharuddin provided them, taking on the English bowlers with relish. He immediately removing Malcolm from the attack by savaging him for 19 in two overs. Reeve was despoited for four and six in consecutive balls as Azharuddin reached his fifty off 34 balls. DeFreitas and even Lewis came in for similar treatment as a partnership with Tendulkar produced 79 runs in nine overs.

Tendulkar was less selective, but he hit hard enough to lessen his captain's chance of a hundred before he skyed to mid-on to set off a minor collapse. Azharuddin ensured it was not a serious one and, when More ended matters, he had scored his 95 off 63 balls, with 12 fours and two sixes. The statistics, and the bowlers' faces, testified to the savagery: they do not reveal the sheer beauty of his batting, a performance worthy of winning any match.

By contrast Hick's effort was worthy. Poor Hick. Criticised for his early struggles at international level, he now seems damned with faint praise for a lack of poetry or personality in his batting. England, however, have been glad of him this tour and, with support from Smith, who is having an impressive ending to the trip, and Fairbrother, he provided the cornerstone of the England innings and the acceleration, scoring his hundred at almost a run a ball.

Like Smith, Hick has come a long way in coping with spin over the past two months, and both Maninder and Kumble suffered some heavy bombardment on a pitch that gave them no help. Maninder did have the frustration of seeing both Hick and Smith missed before either had reached fifty as More fumbled stumping chances. Outside England, where they are treated without honour, there is a dearth of international standard wicketkeepers.

Maninder at least had the consolation of removing Smith, who again thrived on Gwalior's even bounce before hitting the spinner to long-on. That brought in Fairbrother to help hurry the score along.

Hick by then was in full stride, his second 50 coming off 49 balls as he hit Kumble and Kapil into the crowd at mid-wicket, and the partnership put on 88 in 13 overs before Fairbrother, having given one chance, holed out at long leg. Hick stayed to reach his century, but some of the momentum departed with Fairbrother.

India completed only 48 overs in their allotted time, 17 wides helping to account for the shortfall, but even with that unexpected contribution to their total, England looked 20 runs short of par for the second day running. So it proved as Azharuddin cut loose.

GRAHAM MORRIS



Power play: Hick pulls during his unbeaten century at Gwalior yesterday

Gooch undecided on captaincy question

GRAHAM Gooch has made no decision on his future as England cricket captain (Peter Ball writes). Gooch left the England party to fly back to London at the end of the Indian leg of the tour last night after India had squared the one-day international series with victory in the last match in Gwalior.

Gooch said at the end of the Test series, which England lost 3-0, that he wanted to discuss his future with Keith Fletcher before taking any decisions. He is, however, still thinking things over and may be facing a knee operation before the new season.

"I've made no decision about my future yet, and I won't make up my mind for a month or so," Gooch said after England's six-wicket defeat yesterday. "I need time away from India to reflect on what has happened and what I want to do. I have had some good times on tours and I've had a good career, but this has been one of the bad times."

Gooch was disappointed with the performances in India and the tour ended on an unhappy note. England suffering their second defeat in two days as India came back to draw the series. Gooch is being replaced as captain for the Sri Lanka leg of the tour by Alec Stewart.

"I have no regrets about not going to Sri Lanka," Gooch said. "It is the right decision. Someone else must have a go at the captaincy and pave the way for the future."

☐ The England A team face a tough task on the last two days if they are to avoid defeat against New South Wales in Sydney. Michael Bevan struck an unbeaten 105 and Richard Chee Quee, making his first-class debut, made 90 yesterday as New South Wales amassed 295 for three in reply to England's first innings 238.

The pair were forced to work hard for their runs against tight defensive fields set by Jack Russell, captaining the side in place of the injured Martyn Moxon.

"We shot ourselves in the foot by batting badly on the first day and had no runs to play with," Russell said. "It gave me no option but to play as we did."

ENGLAND A XI: First Innings 238 (M N Lathwell 103; D Freedman 6 for 89, G Matthews 4 for 40).

NEW SOUTH WALES: First Innings

M Slater c Russell b Caddick	2
R Chee Quee b Caddick	90
A Gilchrist c Capel b Boiling	47
M Bevan not out	105
T Bayliss not out	36
Extras (lb 8, w 1, nb 6)	15
Total (3 wkts)	295

P Emery, B McNamara, G Matthews, D Freedman, W Holdsworth and G McGrath to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-110, 3-194

BOWLING: Mullins 14-1-48-0, Caddick 23-5-46-2; Capel 19-3-45-0, Such 33-7-74-0; Boiling 21-3-74-1

Umpires: I Thomas and I Jackson

GWALIOR SCOREBOARD

India won toss

ENGLAND

		6s	4s	Min	Ball
R A Smith c Sharma b Maninder	72	1	7	134	105
Big hit to deep mid-on					
†A J Stewart c More b Srinath	11	0	1	42	28
Edged wide ball to wicketkeeper					
G A Hick not out	105	2	7	165	109
N H Fairbrother c Kapil Dev b Srinath	41	0	3	59	39
Pull to deep square-leg					
M W Gatting c Sidhu b Srinath	6	0	1	7	7
Skied drive to deep mid on					
C C Lewis not out	3	0	0	2	2
Extras (lb 8, w 17, nb 2)	27				
Total (4 wkts, 209 min, 48 overs)	265				

*G A Gooch, D A Reeve, P A J DeFreitas, P W Jarvis, D E Malcolm did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42 (Smith 20), 2-158 (Hick 62), 3-246 (Hick 98), 4-258 (Hick 101).

BOWLING: Kapil Dev 10-2-48-0 (nb 1,w 6) (7-2-19-0, 3-0-29-0); Prabhakar 9-0-52-0 (w 2) (4-0-23-0, 2-0-8-0, 3-0-23-0); Srinath 9-0-37-3 (nb 2,w 6) (5-0-15-1, 2-0-11-0, 2-0-11-2); Maninder 10-0-62-1 (nb 1) (5-0-33-0, 5-0-29-1); Kumble 10-0-58-0 (one spell).

Intermediate Scores: 10 ov: 42, 20: 80, 30: 137, 40: 202

Hick: 50: 80 min, 57 balls, 6 fours. 100: 159 min, 106 balls, 7 fours, 2 sixes.

Man of the match: M Azharuddin

Man of the series: N S Sidhu

Umpires: S K Bansal and S Venkataraghavan

INDIA

		6s	4s	Min	Ball
M Prabhakar b Jarvis	73	0	5	156	112
Played inside line					
N S Sidhu c Hick b Lewis	19	0	3	43	27
Square cut to backward point					
V G Kambli c Reeve b DeFreitas	22	0	1	61	40
Mistimed drive to short extra-cover					
*M Azharuddin not out	95	1	12	112	63
S R Tendulkar c sub (Taylor) b Lewis	34	1	2	42	30
Skied intended pull to wide mid-on					
Kapil Dev c Reeve b Jarvis	2	0	0	5	3
Low drive to short extra-cover					
A K Sharma c Gooch b Jarvis	2	0	0	1	2
Dollied catch to mid-on					
†K S More not out	10	0	2	9	6
Extras (lb 1, w 7, nb 2)	10				
Total (5 wkts, 220 min, 48.4 overs)	267				

A Kumble, Maninder Singh and J Srinath did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41 (Prabhakar 19), 2-89 (Prabhakar 50), 3-166 (Azharuddin 43), 4-245 (Azharuddin 88), 5-251 (Azharuddin 92), 6-253 (Azharuddin 92).

BOWLING: Malcolm 8-0-56-0 (w 2) (4-0-19-0, 2-0-19-0, 1-0-11-0, 1-0-7-0); Lewis 10-1-51-2 (5-1-14-1, 2-0-14-0, 3-0-23-1); Jarvis 10-0-39-3 (nb 1,w 3) (5-0-20-0, 3-0-8-1, 2-0-11-2); Reeve 8.4-0-64-0 (nb 2,w 2) (2-0-7-0, 4-0-28-0, 2-0-22-0, 0.4-0-7-0); DeFreitas 10-0-56-1 (6-0-25-1, 2-0-14-0, 2-0-17-0).

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: 10 ov: 41, 20: 82, 30: 147, 40: 212.

India won by 6 wickets

PREVIOUS RESULTS: England won by 4 wickets (Jaipur), 48 runs (Bangalore), 8 wickets (Jamshedpur); India won by 5 wickets (Chandigarh), 3 wickets (Gwalior).

SPORT IN BRIEF

Wattana maintains form in big time

JAMES Wattana reaffirmed his credentials as a serious world snooker championship contender with a 6-4 victory over Stephen Hendry in the semi-finals of the Wickes British Open at Derby yesterday (Phil Yates writes). In his ten previous matches with Hendry, Wattana, 23, from Thailand, had won only twice, but this season he has developed into one of the game's toughest competitors. "My mind is stronger now than it's ever been and that's the key to it all," he said.

Hendry, the world champion, was unable to recover after a mistake in each of the first two frames. In the first, he failed on a plant when 53-19 ahead and Wattana cleared with a 50 break. Hendry opened the scoring in the next with a 50 but ran out of position and Wattana replied with a run of 75. Additional breaks of 59, 40, 40 and a 134 total clearance took Wattana into a 5-2 lead. Hendry benefited from an increase in errors by Wattana to rally to 4-5 but the Thai won the tenth frame cosily with breaks of 38 and 35.

Wattana will play Steve Davis or Jimmy White in today's best-of-19-frame final, his fifth final of the season.

Crowe cuts loose

CRICKET: A solid opening partnership followed by some flashing strokemaking in an innings of 67 not out by the captain, Martin Crowe, put New Zealand on top against Australia on the second day of the second Test match in Wellington yesterday. New Zealand ended the day at 237 for three, having taken their score from 18 without loss after a rain-shortened first day. Mark Greatbatch and John Wright put on 111 for the first wicket before Greatbatch fell to Paul Reiffel, caught at second slip for 61. Wright battled through to 72 before being caught behind off Merv Hughes.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 237 for 3 (M J Greatbatch 61, J G Wright 72, *M D Crowe 62 not out)

Group 4 pushes on

YACHTING: Group 4 Securitas, the leading British Steel Challenge yacht, skippered by Mike Golding, almost doubled her lead overnight as another gale swept over the fleet on the third stage, from Hobart to Cape Town. Further back in the fleet, racing remains extremely close, with Rhone-Poulenc and British Steel II sharing fifth place and Coopers & Lybrand and Heath Insured enjoying an equally close battle for seventh. Interspray, skippered by Paul Jeffes, which had been fifth earlier in the week, dropped back to ninth after suffering a torn mainsail, broken sailing instruments and enduring a freak wave that swept over the decks, knocking the six crew members off their feet.

Joe Gibbs retires

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Joe Gibbs, who led the Washington Redskins to three National Football League (NFL) titles in 11 seasons, will retire as coach this weekend because of an undisclosed illness. Washington television stations reported yesterday that he would be replaced by his assistant, Richie Petitbon, a prominent defensive specialist. Gibbs, 52, thought not to have a life-threatening ailment, is third in victories among active NFL coaches with a record of 124 wins and 60 defeats. In Super Bowl games, his Redskins beat Miami in 1983, lost to the Los Angeles Raiders in 1984 and beat the Denver Broncos in 1988 and the Buffalo Bills in 1992.

Gymkhana favourites

HOCKEY: Indian Gymkhana, level on points with Guildford but with a goal difference better by five, are favourites to win promotion to the Pizza Express National League first division along with Reading. They expect to beat Doncaster in their final match tomorrow, while Guildford will be without Restell, who is not available, for their last game at Cambridge City. Postponed matches last weekend clouded the issue at the bottom of the second division, where both Old Kingstonians and Lyons, who both have two matches to play, are struggling to avoid a return to the regional leagues. Most clubs complete their league fixtures tomorrow.

Times final the target for Kelso winner

Promising Davy Blake shines in Scottish duel

BY BRIAN BEEL

DAVY Blake confirmed the plaudits already earned from his three point-to-point wins when he captured the third Times Rising Stars qualifier at Kelso yesterday.

From the time of the entries, the race always looked, barring accidents, to be a two-horse affair. And so it turned out.

At the first fence, Many A Slip, with the former Irish point-to-point novice champion Noel Wilson aboard, just shaded Davy Blake and until the twelfth fence there was never more than a length between the two.

The more experienced Many A Slip looked the better jumper while they were racing together but, when Michael Dun kicked Davy Blake on to take a three-length advantage, the issue was settled.

The further they went, the greater the gap became and Dun, looking over his shoulder after the last, coasted home 15 lengths to the good.

Linn Falls ran a gallant race under Val Jackson, always heading the other seven runners to finish third.

Winning owner Norman Dalgetty, who bought Davy Blake at the Doncaster sales for 4,000 guineas in October 1991, confirmed that the Worcester final will be his main target.

Dun was very impressed with the performance, saying: "I wish he was qualified for Cheltenham. He never put a foot wrong and is a great horse."

His handler, Lesley Crozier, was never in doubt about his jumping. "Although he only jumps poles at home, I took him to school over a point-to-point fence yesterday afternoon and he never put a foot wrong," she said.

THE TIMES RISING STARS

Though disappointed that Many A Slip had not been nearer at the finish, Tim Walford, his trainer, thought that this race had come too soon after Haydock the previous Friday.

He was far from despondent, however, as he also has Tricksome, whom he regards as a better prospect. He is looking forward to taking him to Nottingham in three weeks' time.

Earlier, Sue Bramall, who had won the second Times qualifier at Sedgefield with Red Under The Bed, took the Cyril Alexander Memorial Novices' Chase with Piper O'Drummond.

A 66-1 winner here in December, Piper O'Drummond took over from Beyond Reason approaching the final fence and the 11-1 chance was driven out by Alan Merrigan to win by two lengths.

Piper O'Drummond had been pulled up twice since his Kelso win. "We found he had a bit of a muscle problem in his back on those two occasions but he is fine again now," Bramall said.

"He ran a fine race when runner-up to The Laughing Lord at Haydock last Friday and I was reasonably confident he would win today." Bramall added that Red Under The Bed runs today at the West Percy point-to-point at Alnwick.

Majed, trained by Mary Reveley, turned the tables on his recent Nottingham conqueror Bellton to take the £12,500 Hennessy Cognac Special Novices' Hurdle, the most valuable race staged at Kelso.

Bought by the Preston-based owners' group, Laurel Leisure, for £10,000 out of Neville Callaghan's stable last June, Majed has a choice of Cheltenham festival engagements — the Trafalgar House Supreme Novices' Hurdle and the County Hurdle.

However, Peter Niven believes the £17,000 Beaufort Hurdle at Chepstow next Saturday is a more realistic objective as the race is confined to five-year-olds.

Niven initiated a double when producing the Michael Hammond-trained Kalko to get up in the last stride and beat Ste-Jen by a short head in the Harcros Scottish Juvenile Championship Novices' Hurdle qualifier.

Hammond, enjoying the 39th winner of his best season, said: "Our horse was a little bit too keen for his own good early on. Probably a better-class race with a stronger pace would suit him more."

Kelso details

4.20 TIMES RISING STARS HUNTER CHASE (Qualifier: amateurs, £1,829: 3m 1f)

1, DAVY BLAKE (Mr J M Dun, 10-11 fav); 2, Many A Slip (Mr N Wilson, 11-8); 3, Linn Falls (Mrs V Jackson, 40-1). ALSO RAN: 12 Barney Rubble (4th), 20 Oot Lane, 50 The Right Guy (f), Sandedge (f), 66 Merry Jerry (6th), 100 Satin D'Or (5th). 9 ran. 15l, 15l, 7l, 7l, 12l. T Dalgetty at Jedburgh. Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £1.70, £4.20. DF: £2.00. CSF: £2.41.

Rewards of good public relations

POINT-TO-POINT BY BRIAN BEEL

THE effort put in by the many scores of unpaid volunteers needed to run a point-to-point is not always appreciated by enthusiasts.

It must be particularly galling to these helpers when they are let down by poor public relations.

The south-east area, in particular, was slow to appreciate the value of publishing in advance the entries at each meeting and does not recognise, at any of its meetings, the official press badge issued by the Point-to-Point Secretaries' Association. Yet within this area, shining like a beacon in the desert, is the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray organising committee with their enlightened secretary, John Cotterell.

A month ago, he dispatched a newsworthy letter listing all the attractions which will be provided for those family members not specifically at Parham today for the racing.

These range from over 30 trade stands and six food stalls to the calypso steel band, often seen at Goodwood. For the children there is a treasure hunt and steam fairground, while their parents will have facilities of an away bookmaker with SIS coverage. A fortnight ago, he wrote again confirming that the 1991 Grand National winner, Seagram, will be paraded.

Racing too is likely to be of the highest quality. In particular, the Taittinger ladies' qualifier has drawn the hunter chaser Breenamore who, interestingly, will be ridden by Diana Grissell. The combination is up against some strong rivals, including Mountain Crash, Maltby Boy and a rejuvenated Hurry Up Henry.

All organisations will be stretched to the limit today with entries for the 13 meetings well in excess of 2,100. Possible splits in the confined and the already divided restricted races at the Flint and Denbigh could result in 13 races to cope with their 266 entries.

The Cheltenham Foxhunter Chase prospect, Radical Views, could be opposed by the Towcester Times Rising Stars qualifier winner, Alpha One, in the Land Rover event.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Bicester with Whaddon Chase, Mollington, 5 miles north of Banbury (first race 12.00), Brocklesby, Brocklesby Park, 10m W of Grimsby (2.00), Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray, Parham, 3m SE of Pulborough (12.45), Derwent, Charm Park, 5m SW of Scarborough (12.30); Duke Of Beaufort's, Didmarton, 6m SW of Tetbury (12.30); Dunston Harriers, Ampton, 4m N of Bury St Edmunds (12.30); East Devon, Clyst St Mary, 5m E of Exeter (12.30); Eglinton, Bogside, 1m N of Irvine (1.45), Flint & Denbigh, Eaton Hall, 4m S of Chester (11.300, Hursley Hambledon, Badbury Rings, 5m SE of Blandford (12.30), South Cornwall, Great Trethew, 3m SE of Liskeard (12.00); Tivyside, Pantyden, 7m NE of Newcastle Emlyn (12.00); West Percy & Milvain, Alnwick, 3m E of Alnwick (1.00).



Grissell: teams up with Breenamore

Minella Man to collect again

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

MINELLA Man, due to form part of Anne Marie O'Brien's first raid on the Cheltenham festival, should retain his unbeaten record over hurdles in the IrE12,000 final of the Irish National Hunt Stallion Owners' Novice Hurdle series at Navan today.

Minella Man has already beaten Disputation at level terms at Punchestown this year and, although Disputation won extremely easily at Fairyhouse last Sunday, Minella Man should successfully give him 2lb here.

Another Cheltenham hopeful on trial is Noel Meade's Supreme Stayers' Hurdle candidate, Rogerdor. He has not been seen out since beating Kilcash at Listowel in September, and certainly has plenty to do here under top weight of 12 stone. He has to concede 22lb to the much-improved mare Titian Blonde, who is attempting a four-timer.

There is mixed news for an Irish success in the Christies Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham. John Costello has decided not to run last year's champion Irish hunter, Over The Edge. Costello said: "I do not believe that he has come to himself yet this spring."

On the other hand, there has been a change in the conditions of the race this year and five-year-olds will now be getting a 10lb allowance from the older horses. This will guarantee the Eddie O'Grady-trained Kerry Orchid starting as warm favourite as he belongs to the favoured age group and won his first hunter chase at Thurles last month.

Heineken extended its commitment to the Punchestown festival yesterday by offering a £250,000 incentive scheme designed to entice the top novice chasers.

The company is backing the Heineken quarter million triple crown which links the three major National Hunt festivals, at Cheltenham, Aintree and Punchestown.

The prize can be landed by winning either the Arkle or Sun Alliance Chases at Cheltenham, then the Mumm Mildmay or Maghull Novice Chases at Liverpool, followed by the Heineken Gold Cup Novice Chase at Punchestown, which runs from April 27 to 29.

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

2.15 Jackson Flint. 2.50 Copper Mine. 3.20 Classic Statement. 3.50 Poetic Gem. 4.25 Song Of Sixpence. 4.55 Castle King.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.15 FLAMBOROUGH HEAD NOVICES HURDLE (£1,958: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1	42-P	HUMMANBY GAP 32 P Beaumont 8-11-4	C Hawkins
2	02	JACKSON FLINT 105 (BF) H Thomson Jones 5-11-4	L Wyer
3	50P0	KNAYTON PROSPECT 21 M W Easterby 5-11-4	J Osborne
4		PERSIASIUS 217F W Bentley 5-11-4	G Hanlon
5	3	ROSS GRAHAM 28 Mrs B Waring 5-11-4	N Mann
6	2/1/4	TOM TOWLEY 10 A Smith 7-11-4	C Grant
7	-P00	SOPHINI 3 Mrs A Tomlinson 5-10-13	T Reed
8	6335	SWEET NOBLE 31 Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-10-8	M Dwyer

7-4 Ross Graham, 9-4 Jackson Flint, 9-2 Sweet Noble, 8-1 Tom Towley, 10-1 Humanby Gap, 12-1 Persasius, 20-1 others.

2.50 BURROUGH HILL LAD NOVICES CHASE (£2,658: 2m 110yd) (3)

1	2341	COPPER MINE 8 (F,C,S) D Barraclough 7-11-8	J Osborne
2	1243	KANNDABIL 6 (D,C,S) N Tinkler 5-11-8	G Grant
3	3082	KEEP SHARP 9 Mrs S Smith 7-11-2	D Byrne

4-6 Copper Mine, 2-1 Kanndabil, 6-1 Keep Sharp.

3.20 LIGHT INFANTRY PLATE (Handicap hurdle: £2,951: 3m 110yd) (5)

1	0653	CLASSIC STATEMENT 4 (D,F,S) R Lee 7-11-10	R Greene (3)
2	3332	MIDLAND LAD 88 (D,F,S) J Eyre 8-11-7	A Mulholland
3	20-5	WANSKI 16 Mrs B Waring 6-10-9	N Mann
4	00PP	LARKADIO SF (F) M Chapman 6-10-9	W Worthington
5	9001	PALAMORN 15 (B,D,F,S) W Reed 11-10-8	T Reed

7-4 Midland Lad, 9-4 Classic Statement, 7-2 Palamorn, 5-1 Wanski, 16-1 Lallado

3.50 GRIMTHORPE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,439: 3m 2f) (4)

1	25PF	DAMERS CAVALRY 12 (B,CD,F,S) R Lee 10-11-10	R Greene (3)
2	5663	POETIC GEM 11 (F,S,S) Mrs S Smith 8-11-8	D Byrne
3	-P61	KILHALLON CASTLE 21 (S,S) S Richards 10-11-2	M Moloney
4	0242	ARDCRONEY CHIEF 10 (S) D Barcello 7-11-0	J Osborne

6-4 Kilhallon Castle, 9-4 Poetic Gem, 7-2 Damers Cavalry, 6-1 Ardcroney Chief.

4.25 PRINCESS ROYAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,002: 2m 110yd) (4)

1	1122	MONTPELIER LAD 22 (D,BF,F,S,S) G Richards 6-12-0	N Doughty
2	6024	SONG OF SIXPENCE 36 (D,F) I Balding 9-11-0	S Earle
3	-P15	TAPATCH 63 (D,F,S) G Moore 5-10-9	M Dwyer
4	PP-3	CHARLIE DICKINS 4 (D,S) J Harris 9-10-0	J A Harris

11-8 Song Of Sixpence, 7-4 Montpelier Lad, 7-2 Tapatch, 10-1 Charlie Dickins.

4.55 HIGH MELTON HANDICAP CHASE (£3,197: 2m 3f 110yd) (6)

1	5P70	NOHALMDUN 35 (C,F,S,S) M H Easterby 12-12-0	L Wyer
2	20ZP	NOS NA GAOITHE 84 (B,S,S) M H Easterby 10-11-9	R Garritty
3	2181	CASTLE KING 10 (CD,F,S) P Chamberlain 9-10-10	C Grant
4	-581	TAKEMETHERE 36 (CD,F,S,S) M Pipe 9-10-4	D Richardson (5)
5	P420	WIGTOWN BAY 85 (C,F,S) J Mackie 10-10-0	M Williamson
6	3/2P-	FIESTA DANCE 512 (F) G Fleming 10-10-0	M Robinson (7)

11-10 Castle King, 11-4 Takemethere, 4-1 Nos Na Gaoithe, 7-1 Nohalmdun, 10-1 Wigtown Bay, 33-1 Fiesta Dance.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Lee, 7 winners from 20 runners, 35.0%; O Sherwood, 7 from 21, 33.3%; M Pipe, 5 from 16, 31.3%; M W Easterby, 5 from 19, 26.3%; M H Easterby, 6 from 27, 22.2%; G Richards, 3 from 14, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: N Doughty, 3 winners from 17 rides, 17.6%; M Dwyer, 5 from 33, 15.2%; R Garritty, 3 from 21, 14.3%; L Wyer, 4 from 30, 13.3%; C Grant, 4 from 33, 12.1%; C Hawkins, 3 from 28, 10.7%.

☐ Frankie Dettori, who won the first Young Jockeys' World Championship in Japan last year, defends his title at Nakayama, Tokyo, this weekend.

هكذا من الأجل

Elsworth's title hope cut to 12-1 after glowing gallop reports

Oh So Risky gamble gathers pace

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

THE Champion Hurdle plunge on Oh So Risky went into overdrive yesterday, as David Elsworth demonstrated the well-being of his string with a double at Newbury.

The runner-up to Royal Gait in last year's race was 25-1 a fortnight ago and was still available at 20-1 on Monday but, following glowing reports concerning his home gallops, Oh So Risky's price has plummeted. Sustained support yesterday forced William Hill to cut him to 12-1.

The six-year-old has not raced since disappointing in the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton, but Elsworth said yesterday: "He is progressing. I had intended to bring him to Newbury tomorrow for a gallop but he worked very well this week; so well that we decided not to bring him here. That is how pleased we are with his progress. I shall take him straight to Cheltenham."

David Hood, spokesman for William Hill, said: "He's the only horse for which there has been good support in the past two weeks. Punters have heard about the reports of his work at home and have latched on to the fact the two times he has been to the Cheltenham festival he won the Triumph Hurdle and was second in the Champion."

Paul Holley, who rides most of Elsworth's horses, has still to decide whether to ride Oh So Risky or Muse, but he got in the winning mood with a short-priced double on Givus A Buck and Fragrant Dawn at Newbury.

A combination of firm going reports and the lull before the Cheltenham storm meant there were only 27 runners at the Berkshire course yesterday, despite added prize-money of more than £25,000.

Today's turn-out is hardly any more inspiring. The £15,000-added Berkshire Hurdle has attracted only five runners, while just three horses go to post for the £10,000-added Rocking Horse Nursery Chase.

[illegible]

Nap: KNOCK KNOCK
(1.10 Newbury)
Next best: Allinson's Mate
(3.40 Lingfield)

Given the proximity of the Cheltenham festival, there is surely no need for five meetings this afternoon. Doncaster has attracted just 30 runners for its six-race card. It is self-defeating to spread so much Levy Board money among so few horses.

Although racing's traditionalists will be left spluttering with indignation, the best racing this afternoon is arguably on the all-weather at Lingfield with two £10,000-added contests and another with a purse of £8,000.

The Conquest Cup sees several potential Lincoln runners in action, including Allinson's Mate, trained by David Barron and ridden by Alex Greaves, who combined to win Doncaster's big early-season handicap with Amenable in 1991.

Allinson's Mate has already been well backed for the Lincoln after returning to form over the winter on the all-weather. Barron said yesterday: "He had been very badly handicapped after his two-year-old days and it has taken him a long time to come back to himself. Handicappers don't understand you can soon sicken a horse. He could not possibly win because he was too high in the weights.

"In the end we put him in a claimer to let him get his head in front and get his confidence back. He's found his form and has improved. The Lincoln is pie-in-the-sky at present but if everything goes okay and we can get him there fit and well, it's a distinct possibility."

In a competitive race, the five-year-old can enhance his Doncaster credentials at the expense of Merlins Wish.



Elsworth: taking Oh So Risky straight to Cheltenham after expressing satisfaction at his hurdler's homework

[illegible]

THUNDERER
1.10 KNOCK KNOCK (nap). 1.40 Flakey Dove. 2.10 Lake Mission. 2.45 Aremef. 3.15 Musthaveaswig. 3.45 Gay Ruffian. 4.15 Laundryman.

GOING: FIRM SIS

1.10 EASTLEIGH HANDICAP HURDLE (BBC1)
(£5,920: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

101 63131- ARABIAN BOLD 217F (D,G,S) N Henderson 5-11-10 Pat Thompson (7) 90
102 P00311 CHILD OF THE MIST 15 (D,G,S) (J Whyte) J Whyte 7-11-7 R Dunwoody 93
103 211130 NIKITAS 63 (CD,F,G,S) (A Saloniou) Miss A Whitfield 6-11-4 L Harvey 94
104 5-02421 SABAKI RIVER 26 (D,G,S) (Mrs K Stuart) Mrs J Retter 9-11-3 M A Fitzgerald
105 5-32034 ROSGILL 39 (D,F) (Brigadier Racing) M Tompkins 7-11-0 D Murphy 96
106 P50664 CHEERFUL TIMES 14 (D,G,S) (M Sturgess) B McMahon 10-10-13 C Llewellyn 92
107 3/11- KNOCK KNOCK 161F (D,F) (G Smart) I Balding 8-10-12 J Frost 89
108 246601 KAYTAK 4 (V,D,F,G) (T Myles & Co Ltd) J Jenkins 6-10-12 (5ex) M Perrett 94

BETTING: 3-1 Sabaki River, 7-2 Child Of The Mist, 4-1 Knock Knock, 8-1 Kaytak, Nikitas, 10-1 others.

1992: GALAXY HIGH 5-10-1 L Wyer (2-1) P Leach 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARABIAN BOLD beat Jimmy The Gillie 3l in 17-runner Ludlow (2m, soft) novice hurdle. CHILD OF THE MIST completed double, beat Scarlet Express 5l in 8-runner Fakenham (2m 110yd, good) handicap hurdle. NIKITAS 9l 3rd of 12 to Qualitair Sound in Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft) handicap hurdle on penultimate start. SABAKI RIVER beat Norstock 12l in 4-runner Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft) handicap hurdle. ROSGILL 6l 3rd of 7 to San Fernando in Ascot (2m 110yd, soft) handicap hurdle on penultimate start. KNOCK KNOCK beat Sean's Scholar neck in 8-runner Haydock (2m 110yd, good to firm) novice hurdle on final start last term. KAYTAK beat Sydmonton 3l in 4-runner Nottingham (2m, good to firm) handicap hurdle.
Selection: SABAKI RIVER

1.40 BERKSHIRE HURDLE (BBC1)
(Grade II: £9,440: 2m 5f) (5 runners)

201 2/03213- CRYSTAL SPIRIT 245 (C,F,G,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 6-11-12 J Frost
202 0-43342 LIFT AND LOAD 10 (C,G,S) (Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 6-11-12 D Murphy 93
203 8-32316 ROYAL DERBI 21 (BF,F,G,S) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 8-11-12 R Dunwoody 98
204 113-251 FLAKEY DOVE 10 (C,F,G,S) (J Price) R Price 7-11-4 D Tegg 94
205 204102 KETTI 12 (D,F,G,S) (Berkshire Components Ltd) D Williams 8-11-8 Mr G Lewis 89

BETTING: 6-4 Flakey Dove, 5-2 Lift And Load, 4-1 Crystal Spirit, Royal Derbi, 12-1 Ketti.

1992: CRYSTAL SPIRIT 5-11-12 J Frost (11-10 fav) I Balding 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CRYSTAL SPIRIT 6¾l 4th of 17, promoted to 3rd, to Nomadic Way in grade I Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good) on final start last term. LIFT AND LOAD 11l 4th of 16 to King Credo in grade II handicap hurdle here (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start with FLAKEY DOVE (4lb better off) 1½l 5th and ROYAL DERBI 13th. ROYAL DERBI beat Novello Allegro 2½l in 11-runner grade I Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, yielding to soft) on penultimate start. FLAKEY DOVE beat LIFT AND LOAD (4lb better off) 5l in 4-runner grade II Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, soft) hurdle. KETTI beat Primitive Singer 10l in 12-runner Kempton (2m 5f, soft) handicap hurdle in January.
Selection: CRYSTAL SPIRIT

2.10 ROCKING HORSE NURSERY HANDICAP CHASE (BBC1)
(£7,616: 2m 4f) (3 runners)

301 44542F GOOD TONIC 7 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Lady Wates) T Etherington 10-11-10 G McCourt 94
302 5P/3436 PANTO PRINCE 21 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Warren) C Popham 12-11-0 R Dunwoody 90
303 425261 LAKE MISSION 16 (D,G) (W Montgomery) S Sherwood 8-10-4 A S Smith

BETTING: 4-6 Lake Mission, 5-2 Good Tonic, 4-1 Panto Prince.

1992: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

GOOD TONIC ¾l 2nd of 5 to Mr Entertainer in handicap chase over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. PANTO PRINCE 10¾l 4th of 8 to Shamana in Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft) handicap chase in December. LAKE MISSION beat Sacre D'Or ½l in 8-runner Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good) handicap chase.
Selection: PANTO PRINCE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
I Balding	5	11	45.5	R Dunwoody	53	204	26.0
M Tompkins	5	14	35.7	P Scudamore	32	136	23.5
M Pipe	26	94	27.7	P Holley	11	56	19.6
S Mellor	4	16	25.0	M Perrett	14	79	17.7
D Nicholson	24	108	22.2	S Smith Eccles	5	32	15.6
C Popham	3	14	21.4	G McCourt	10	65	15.4

2.45 HIGHCLERE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-0: £3,340: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

401 12 AREMEF 11 (D,S) (A Hancock) Mrs J Cecil 11-0 T Kent
402 5 DUNNICKS VIEW 23 (F Tucker) F Tucker 11-0 D Tegg –
403 6 MASTER OF THE HUNT 14 (B Collard) R Bennett 11-0 L O'Hara (7) –
404 SNOW BOARD 168F (J Hanson) B Hills 11-0 S Smith Eccles –
405 41 ZAMIRAH 9 (D,S) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 10-13 P Scudamore 97
406 22113 LAND OF THE FREE 18 (D,BF,S) (R Johns) M Pipe 10-9 M Perrett 98
407 64 MISS SOUTER 14 (D Jones) H Howe 10-9 J Frost 75

BETTING: 6-4 Aremef, 9-4 Zamirah, 4-1 Snow Board, 5-1 Land Of The Free, 16-1 Miss Souter, 25-1 Dunnicks View, 50-1 Master Of The Hunt.

1992: BEEBOB 10-9 J Frost (2-1 fav) M Pipe 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

AREMEF 1l 2nd of 8 to Kadi in Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good) hurdle.
SNOW BOARD modest staying handicapper on the Flat. Makes hurdling bow. ZAMIRAH beat Formal Invitation 4l in 16-runner Wincanton (2m, good) maiden hurdle. LAND OF THE FREE 3¾l 3rd of 7 to Exact Analysis in Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft) novice handicap hurdle. MISS SOUTER 30l 4th of 7 to Storm Dust in Windsor (2m, soft) novice hurdle with MASTER OF THE HUNT (same terms) tailed off 6th.
Selection: AREMEF (nap)

3.15 WICKHAM NOVICES CHASE (£3,678: 3m) (4 runners)

501 U2P211 MUSTHAVEASWIG 14 (D,S) (P D Fasteners Ltd) D Nicholson 7-12-0 R Dunwoody
502 1F4336 MR JAMBOREE 9 (F,S) (Mrs D Loosack) J Gifford 7-11-8 D Murphy 85
503 0UF143 NEWS REVIEW 8 (D,S) (D Williams) D Williams 10-11-8 S Smith Eccles 91
504 00-5P32 SPIKEY 16 (S Powell) J Jenkins 7-11-4 G Bradley 78

BETTING: 2-5 Musthaveaswig, 5-1 Mr Jamboree, 8-1 News Review, 10-1 Spikey.

1992: MANDER'S WAY 7-11-9 J Osborne (4-1) Miss H Knight 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

MUSTHAVEASWIG completed double, beat Captain Frisk 5l in 7-runner Nottingham (3m 110yd, good) handicap chase. MR JAMBOREE 20¾l 3rd of 4 to Altest in Ascot (3m, good to soft) novice chase on penultimate start. NEWS REVIEW 7½l 3rd of 6 to Ashfold Copse in Kempton (3m, good) novice chase. SPIKEY 4l 2nd of 9 to Annio Chilone in Sandown (3m 110yd, good) novice handicap chase.
Selection: MUSTHAVEASWIG

3.45 JACK O'NEWBURY NOVICES CHASE (£3,704: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

601 41-FP13 RAFIKI 28 (BF,S) (Mrs J May) Mrs J Retter 8-11-12 M A Fitzgerald 73
602 6-11142 GAY RUFFIAN 15 (D,G,S) (F Jones) M Pipe 7-11-8 P Scudamore
603 80/0P44 FINE HARVEST 14 (Miss J Cumiskey) B McMahon 7-11-4 D Murphy –
604 423/464 GOLDFINGER 16 (J Pilkington) J Pilkington 10-11-4 D Tegg 50
605 03554F JACK SNIPE 30 (Mrs A Mildmay-White) R Frost 6-11-4 J Frost 50
606 3P/0PU0 LOVER BILL 12 (B) (P Brown) M Wilkinson 11-11-4 G Upton –
607 MIGHTY MICHAEL (L Ford) A Jarvis 7-11-4 T Jarvis –
608 5-34214 ROCKET LAUNCHER 9 (S) (W O'Gorman) D Elsworth 7-11-4 P Holley 75
609 3-P5U5P SOUTH HARVEST 26 (V,BF,G,S) (D Donnelly) J Jenkins 10-11-4 R Dunwoody 60

BETTING: 8-11 Gay Ruffian, 3-1 Rafiki, 6-1 Rocket Launcher, 10-1 South Harvest, 16-1 Fine Harvest, 20-1 Jack Snipe, 25-1 Goldfinger, Lover Bill, 33-1 Mighty Michael.

1992: CHANGE THE ACT 7-11-4 J Osborne (5-2) O Sherwood 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

RAFIKI beat Jumbeau 5l in 9-runner Warwick (2m, heavy) novice chase on penultimate start with FINE HARVEST pulled up 3 out. GAY RUFFIAN 2½l 2nd of 3 to Fighting Words in Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good) novice chase. GOLDFINGER 26½l 4th of 9 to Aanio Chilone in Sandown (3m 110yd, good) novice handicap chase. ROCKET LAUNCHER 14l 4th of 9 to Viking Flagship in Wincanton (2m, good) novice chase.
Selection: GAY RUFFIAN

4.15 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,629: 2m 5f) (7 runners)

1 43F413 DAGOBERTIN 17 (BF,S) (P Leonard) M Pipe 7-11-10 P Scudamore –
2 514-055 STAGE PLAYER 8 (D,F,G) (J Mussard) Miss S Wilton 7-11-2 G McCourt
3 516-0P. STAR QUEST 42 (F) (D Morris) J Jenkins 6-10-11 R Dunwoody 91
4 5U23R-3 CERTAIN STYLE 9 (F,G,S) (Bogey Partnership) J Old 10-10-9 T Grantham 90
5 P-4P4P5 LAUNDRYMAN 22 (G,S) (Burford Laundry Company Ltd) S Mellor 10-10-1 M Perrett 98
6 53281-2 FAR TOO LOUD 25 (S) (R Dennis) Mrs J Retter 6-10-0 M A Fitzgerald 98
7 /F0P/P- COUNTRY SINGER 18 (B Azemoudeh) P McEntee 10-10-0 J Lodder –

Long handicap: Country Singer 7-8.

BETTING: 5-2 Dagobertin, 3-1 Far Too Loud, 4-1 Stage Player, 5-1 Certain Style, 8-1 Laundryman, Star Quest, 66-1 Country Singer.

1992: EVERALDO 8-10-4 J Osborne (7-1) N Henderson 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

DAGOBERTIN fell last when a distance clear in Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, soft) novice chase, remounted to finish distance 3rd of 9 to Wicket. Dual hurdles' winner in France. CERTAIN STYLE 7½l 3rd of 18 to Imperial Flight in Wincanton (2m, good) claiming hurdle. LAUNDRYMAN 16l 5th of 21 to Oatis Regrets in novice hurdle over course and distance (good to soft). FAR TOO LOUD 2½l 2nd of 9 to Fox Chapel in Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, soft) handicap hurdle with STAGE PLAYER (3lb better off) 22l 5th.
Selection: FAR TOO LOUD

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

NEWBURY
BBC1

1.10: Knock Knock, who won the Chesterfield Cup at Goodwood last summer, looks very fairly treated for his seasonal debut over hurdles and is reported to be fit and well. The firm ground is ideal for Ian Balding's dual-purpose horse and his Flat speed should prove too much for the reformed Child Of The Mist and Kaytak, who has a 5lb penalty for winning at Nottingham on Tuesday.

1.40: With doubts about most of her rivals, **Flakey Dove** can win this in preparation for the Champion Hurdle. Richard Price's progressive mare beat Lift And Load a shade comfortably at Warwick ten days ago and should confirm that superiority on 4lb worse terms. Crystal Spirit, a former Sun Alliance Hurdle winner, returns after injury and will probably need the run while Royal Derbi could have his stamina limitations exposed over this trip.

2.10: Form often goes out of the window in small fields, hence the theory of backing the outsider in three-runner races. However, with the weights having gone up 16lb overnight to bring Lake Mission into the handicap proper, it will be a surprise if Simon Sherwood's charge cannot add to his recent victory at Sandown. Good Tonic has yet to hit top form this season while Panto Prince appears to be on the decline.

STRATFORD

THUNDERER
2.30 Faithful Star. 3.00 Boogie Bopper. 3.30 Gladtogetit. 4.00 Cab On Target. 4.30 Fifth Amendment. 5.00 Olympian.

Brian Beel: 4.30 Gembridge Jupiter.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 5.00 OLYMPIAN.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM PATCHES) SIS

2.30 CHERINGTON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£1,480: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

1 F321 FAITHFUL STAR 16 (F,G,S) M Pipe 8-11-10 J Lower
2 -54/ ALMANZORA 827 Mrs J Pitman 9-11-3 M Pitman
3 -060 COTSWOLD CASTLE 22 R Dickin 7-11-3 D Meredith (3)
4 0FB0 DAN DE LYON 21 D Nicholson 5-11-3 W Marston (3)
5 DUSKOMI G Ham 7-11-3 C Maude
6 20-3 FIRST LESSON 14 P Hobbs 7-11-3 Peter Hobbs
7 0-40 NEWHALL PRINCE 32 J Smith 5-11-3 I Lawrence
8 23 OLD BRIDGE 10 (BF) A Turnell 5-11-3 S McNeill
9 000 PROJECT'S MATE 107 R Brown 6-11-3 Mr J L Llewellyn (7)
10 6-65 RUSTIC FLIGHT 105 R Eckley 6-11-3 D Gallagher

6-4 Faithful Star, 9-4 Old Bridge, 7-2 First Lesson, 8-1 Almanzora, 14-1 Dan De Lyon, 16-1 Cotswold Castle, Rustic Flight, 25-1 others.

3.00 LUDDINGTON FOUR-YEAR-OLD NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,480: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 1420 BOOGIE BOPPER 16 (D,BF,S) M Pipe 10-13 J Lower
2 CONSTRUCTIVIST 135F M Barraclough 10-12 S McNeill
3 F0 RED SOMBRERO 14 R Brotherton 10-7 D Meredith (3)
4 553P ANOTHER VINTAGE 14 P Cundell 10-5 L Harvey
5 3500 MIDAS WELL 123 G Ham 10-5 S Mackey
6 3451 ALDINGTON PEACH 4 (D,F) P Evans 10-2 B Clifford (3)
7 4042 DAILY SPORT GIRL 18 (BF) B Llewellyn 10-2 Mr J L Llewellyn (7)
8 06 LAGATURNE LADY 100 M Charles 10-0 Mr S Joynes (7)
9 67 MINS BLUE 64 J Bradley 10-0 W Marston (3)

6-4 Boogie Bopper, 3-1 Daily Sport Girl, 7-2 Aldington Peach, 8-1 Another Vintage, 10-1 Constructivist, 16-1 Midas Well, 20-1 Lagaturne Lady, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Forster, 17 winners from 56 runners, 30.4%; A Turnell, 5 from 21, 23.8%; M Pipe, 17 from 84, 20.2%; R Lee, 6 from 30, 20.0%; P Hobbs, 8 from 44, 18.2%; Mrs J Pitman, 8 from 53, 15.1%.

JOCKEYS: C Llewellyn, 16 winners from 66 rides, 24.2%; Peter Hobbs, 5 from 29, 17.2%; C Maude, 4 from 28, 14.3%; J White, 4 from 34, 11.8%; W McFarland, 4 from 38, 10.5%; L Harvey, 5 from 50, 10.0%.

3.30 BIDFORD HANDICAP CHASE (£3,590: 2m 5f 110yd) (7)

1 2/40 FILE CONCORD 35 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 9-12-0 M Pitman
2 B2U0 ERRANT KNIGHT 17 (D,BF,G,S) M Pipe 9-10-10 J Lower
3 1422 DRIVING FORCE 17 (D,F,S) M McCourt 7-10-9 Mr T Jenks (7)
4 P-P0 COMEDY ROAD 19 (B,F,G) R Lee 9-10-2 P Niven
5 4310 KITTINGER 64 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 12-10-1 Peter Hobbs
6 2P01 GLADTOGETIT 15 (C,G) D Gandolfo 7-10-0 S McNeill
7 4022 SOLAR CLOUD 99 (D,F,G,S) M Charles 11-10-0 Judy Davies (7)

11-4 Driving Force, 3-1 Gladtogetit, 7-2 Errant Knight, 6-1 File Concord, 8-1 Kittinger, 10-1 Solar Cloud, 12-1 Comedy Road.

4.00 RICHARDSONS OLDBURY NOVICES CHASE (£4,611: 2m 4f) (7)

1 -412 BIBENDUM 21 (G,S) R Waley-Cohen 7-11-4 Peter Hobbs
2 -111 CAB ON TARGET 84 (D,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 P Niven
3 4124 JIM VALENTINE 17 (CD,F,S) D Wintle 7-11-4 J White
4 P/6F BROADWELL 11 T Forster 9-11-0 C Llewellyn
5 0346 CLARE LAD 22 (F,G,S) D Wintle 10-11-0 W Marston
6 46/2P PEGMARINE 82 Mrs A Woodrow 10-11-0 J McCarthy
7 1F31 BALLYROE LADY 11 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 7-10-13 S McNeill

4-9 Cab On Target, 7-2 Bibendum, 8-1 Ballyroe Lady, 14-1 Jim Valentine, 20-1 Broadwell, 25-1 Pegmarine, 33-1 Clare Lad.

4.30 GAY SHEPPARD MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY (Hunter chase: amateurs: £1,418: 3m) (4)

1 6P41 FIFTH AMENDMENT 14 (B,D,F,G,S) Mrs F Walwyn 8-12-10 R Ponsonby (7)
2 13-3 RAISE AN ARGUMENT 21 (C,G,S) Mrs J Docker 14-12-7 A Hill (3)
3 2-U2 GEMBRIDGE JUPITER 15 (C,F,G,S) C Trietline 15-12-0 C Trietline (7)
4 83-2 SALCOMBE HARBOUR 14 (BF,G,S) H Inch 9-12-0 Dr P Pritchard (7)

6-4 Fifth Amendment, 11-4 Raise An Argument, 7-2 Salcombe Harbour, 4-1 Gembridge Jupiter.

5.00 SWAN HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,945: 2m 6f 110yd) (7)

1 4140 ARTFUL ABBOT 61 (F,G,S) S Sherwood 9-11-10 D Geoghegan (5)
2 FP60 JIMBALOU 7 (D,F,G,S) R Brazington 10-11-3 W Humphreys
3 000- OLYMPIAN 290 (B,F,G) M Pipe 6-11-2 J Lower
4 U1F0 WINABUCK 35 (B,F,G,S) R Dickin 10-11-1 D Meredith (3)
5 41/0 WISE CUSTOMER 16 (G) Mrs T White 9-10-6 Mr J Rees
6 6-00 DOMINION TREASURE 30 (G,S) R Baker 8-10-0 W McFarland
7 3254 NORTHERN OPTIMIST 14 B Llewellyn 5-10-0 Mr J L Llewellyn (7)

6-4 Olympian, 7-2 Artful Abbot, 5-1 Dominion Treasure, 6-1 Winabuck, 8-1 Jimbalou, 10-1 Northern Optimist, 20-1 Wise Customer.

HEREFORD

THUNDERER
1.55 Emsboy. 2.25 Kissane. 2.55 Sailors Luck. 3.25 Caromandoo. 3.55 Sylvia Beach. 4.25 No Escort. 4.55 Thunder Bug.

Brian Beel: 4.25 No Escort.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

1.55 MARCH NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,475: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 1363 JUST 8 (B,S) M Pipe 7-12-0 M Foster
2 F302 EMSBOY 12 (B,BF,S) P Cundell 5-11-11 A Maguire
3 000- ASOLUS 354 I Jones 7-11-5 K P Gaule (7)
4 COMBAT ZONE 2016F P Leach 9-11-5 H Davies
5 P006 JOE QUALITY 31 B Preece 6-11-5 T Wall
6 /0-0 KINGS HATCH 10 A Jones 7-11-5 G Upton
7 5344 STRONG FANCY 49 (G) S Kettlewell 10-11-5 S Lyons (5)
8 -PPP SWEETING 25 J Whale 8-11-5 A Jones

10-11 Just, 6-4 Emsboy, 7-1 Strong Fancy, 14-1 Combat Zone, Joe Quality, 25-1 Kings Hatch, 33-1 Asolus, 50-1 Sweeting.

2.25 NEWENT HANDICAP CHASE (£2,626: 2m 3f) (7)

1 1134 THE GREEN STUFF 19 (BF,F,G,S) J Upson 8-11-10 Mr T Byrne (7)
2 F-3P SIR NODDY 53 (F) C Vernon Miller 10-11-8 R Bellamy
3 3P06 KISSANE 16 (CD,G,S) C Broad 12-11-5 H Davies
4 1244 PITHY 9 (C,G,S) R Price 11-11-0 D Leahy (5)
5 2064 PAMPERING 14 (G,S) M Meade 12-10-6 J Railton
6 0011 CASINO MAGIC 17 (G,S) J Spearing 9-10-1 A Maguire
7 34-5 THEY ALL FORGOT ME 11 (F,G) T Casey 6-10-1 D Bridgwater

7-4 The Green Stuff, 5-2 Casino Magic, 9-2 Pithy, 6-1 Kissane, 10-1 Pampering, 12-1 Sir Noddy, 16-1 They All Forgot Me.

2.55 CHELTENHAM & THREE COUNTIES CLUB NOVICES CHASE (£2,268: 2m) (6)

1 0123 SAILORS LUCK 21 (D,BF,S) P Murphy 8-11-6 E Murphy
2 0P24 ALDINGTON BELL 24 (F) C Trietline 10-11-2 D Bridgwater
3 F544 CELTIC CATCH 23 (F) J Bosley 7-11-2 M Bosley
4 FU03 COBO BAY 8 (F) K White 8-11-2 A Maguire
5 /800 DRAG ARTIST 19 M Scudamore 8-11-2 R Bellamy
6 /F-2 UNCLE MOGY 12 (F) D Nicholson 7-11-2 H Davies

5-4 Sailors Luck, 7-4 Uncle Mogy, 6-1 Aldington Belle, 8-1 Cobo Bay, 14-1 Celtic Catch, 20-1 Drag Artist.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Christian, 6 winners from 16 runners, 37.5%; M Pipe, 40 from 123, 32.5%; D Nicholson, 15 from 52, 28.8%; K Bailey, 12 from 52, 23.1%; J Upson, 3 from 16, 18.8%; M Scudamore, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

JOCKEYS: M Hourigan, 3 winners from 6 ride, 50.0%; Jacqui Oliver, 3 from 11, 27.3%; A S Smith, 3 from 12, 25.0%; R Farrant, 3 from 13, 23.1%; D Leahy, 3 from 16, 18.8%; H Davies, 8 from 44, 18.2%.

3.25 FRED RIMELL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,374: 2m 1f) (9)

1 P0-5 THE BLUE BOY 77 (D,F,G) Mrs J Retter 5-11-10 D Salter (7)
2 1123 SIMONE'S SON 10 (B,D,F,G) G Barnett 5-11-4 R Farrant (5)
3 3120 CHELWORTH RAIDER 23 (C,F,G) J Spearing 7-11-0 H Davies
4 P556 KING'S SHILLING 127 (C,F) C Broad 6-10-7 Jacqui Oliver
5 3P-0 BALLERINA ROSE 35 (G) O O'Neill 6-10-6 V Slattery (5)
6 U15- CABIN HILL 306 (S) S Christian 7-10-6 D Bridgwater
7 -00P EASBY MANDRINA 43 (D,G,S) S Kettlewell 6-10-4 S Lyons (5)
8 5353 KALZARI 3 (B) D Deacon 8-10-0 A Maguire
9 0453 CAROMANDOO 17 (B,S) A Barrow 5-10-0 M Hourigan (3)

3-1 Chelworth Raider, 4-1 Simone's Son, The Blue Boy, 5-1 Cabin Hill, 8-1 Ballerina Rose, King's Shilling, 14-1 Kalzari, 16-1 Caromandoo, 25-1 Easby Mandrina.

3.55 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,565: 2m 3f 110yd) (11)

1 -400 ALICE SMITH 38 B Eckley 6-10-12 R Farrant (5)
2 P/0 CANNING'S COLLEGE 28 R Hawker 7-10-12 Lorna Vincent
3 3205 CHAPEL HILL 23 A Turnell 5-10-12 D Fortt (7)
4 0304 CWM ARCTIC 12 Mrs A Price 6-10-12 Mr C Campbell (7)
5 0-00 FIVE STARS 82 J Colston 6-10-12 V Slattery (5)
6 0/F GIPSY REW 23 M Heaton-Ellis 6-10-12 S Keightley
7 GO MARY Miss C Phillips 7-10-12 R Bellamy
8 06U0 JANET SCIBS 16 N Ayliffe 7-10-12 E Tierney (5)
9 0-00 RIP THE CALICO 38 P Burgoyne 5-10-12 N O'Connor (7)
10 -043 SYLVIA BEACH 31 (S) P Murphy 7-10-12 E Murphy
11 0P5 TAREESH 39 K Bailey 6-10-12 J Railton

4-5 Sylvia Beach, 7-4 Chapel Hill, 10-1 Tareesh, 14-1 Cwm Arctic, 20-1 Gipsy Rew, 25-1 Alice Smith, Janet Scibs, 33-1 others.

4.25 CHARLIE KNIPE HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £1,393: 3m 1f 110yd) (8)

1 411- KNOCKUMSHIN 297 (CD,F,G,S) S J Smith 16-12-7 T Byrne (7)
2 2-21 NO ESCORT 15 (F,G) Miss C Saunders 9-12-7 R Russell (5)
3 P-PU MARTIN THOMAS 12 (D,S) D Powell 10-12-4 A Price (7)
4 /P-4 MASTER ERYL 19 (F) Mrs R Gulding 10-12-4 M Sheppard (7)
5 00F- THEFRIENDLYBARBER 351 (CD,F) Lady Susan Brooke 10-12-4 M P Jones (7)
6 35P- CARRICKMINES 281 L Bowles 8-12-0 J Durkan (3)
7 PPP- THE SCREAMIN DEMON 281 L Bowles 10-12-0 C Vigors (7)
8 4-34 WAY CLEAR 12 J Meddings 10-11-9 Miss S Sharratt (7)

1-2 No Escort, 5-2 Knockumshin, 8-1 Way Clear, 10-1 Master Eryl, 14-1 Carrickmines, 20-1 Thefriendlybarber, 33-1 others.

4.55 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,269: 2m 1f) (8)

1 -PP1 SALMONID 11 (G) Miss K Allison 7-11-10 M Hourigan (3)
2 00-0 EQUITY CARD 12 L Barratt 5-11-5 Gary Lyons
3 2435 THUNDER BUG 91 A James 5-10-12 R Bellamy
4 0001 CAVO GRECO 19 (CD,G) J Joseph 4-10-11 D Skyrme
5 U501 LARK RISE 11 C Weedon 5-10-7 A Maguire
6 3U4 SUNLEY SPARKLE 114 D Gandolfo 5-10-4 A S Smith
7 5022 JARZON DANCER 10 (BF) D Wilson 5-10-0 D Bridgwater
8 3333 FLING IN SPRING 10 (B) J McConnochie 7-10-0 J Pullin (7)

3-1 Jarzon Dancer, 7-2 Salmonid, 4-1 Lark Rise, 5-1 Thunder Bug, 6-1 Cavo Greco, 10-1 Fling In Spring, 12-1 Sunley Sparkle, 20-1 Equity Card.

☐ Jeff Penza, the Australian jockey, makes his British debut at Lingfield Park today. He partners Noora's Rose for trainer Clive Brittain in the Rapporteur Stakes.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
2.05 Absonal. 2.35 Arctic Guest. 3.05 Double Flutter. 3.40 Merlins Wish. 4.10 Chiltern Hundreds. 4.40 Heniu.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 7F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.05 TAURUS CLAIMING STAKES (£2,656: 7f) (14)

1 003- KNOCK TO ENTER 114J (D,F) M Williams 5-9-3 J Williams 3
2 0/0 ALNEZ 8 R Armstrong 5-8-11 R Price 8
3 3120 RESPECTABLE JONES 14 (CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 7-8-11 W Ryan 7
4 6446 MAC'S FIGHTER 7 (B,C,D,F,G) R O'Sullivan 8-8-7 D Biggs 9
5 -023 COURTING NEWMARKET 14 (C) Mrs A Knight 5-8-3 F Norton (3) 6
6 00-4 HARRY'S COMING 7 (C,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-8-3 S Drowne (7) 10
7 0006 RUSHANES 16 (C,S) T Casey 6-8-3 B Doyle (5) 5
8 -533 APOLLO RED 14 (BF) P Harris 4-8-1 N Adams 1
9 2-20 SUMMER EXPRESS 30 (B,C) J Spearing 4-8-1 Dale Gibson 11
10 2-14 ABSONAL 56 (CD,F,G) R Hannon 6-7-13 A McGlone 4
11 020- SUNSET STREET 77 (E,D,F,G) S Dow 5-7-13 J Quinn 13
12 000- SUPREME OPTIMIST 137 (B,D,G,S) R Peacock 9-7-13 A Mackay 12
13 WESSEX WARRIOR 17J (V) D Laing 7-7-13 T Williams 2
14 00-0 DAL MISS 38J R Peacock 6-7-8 S Wood 14

3-1 Absonal, 7-2 Respectable Jones, 4-1 Mac's Fighter, 5-1 Harry's Coming, 8-1 Courting Newmarket, 10-1 Knock To Enter, 12-1 Summer Express, 14-1 others.

2.35 ASCOM TELE-NOVA HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £2,978: 1m 2f) (10)

1 -241 KINGSTON BROWN 12 (S) D Loder 9-7 T Quinn 8
2 3452 ASHOVER 2 T Barron 9-0 Alex Greaves 7
3 063- WITHOUT A FLAG 112 C Cyzer 8-11 Michael Hunt (7) 10
4 3433 HALHAM TARN 9 D Elsworth 8-8 J Williams 1
5 0-51 NEDAARAH 9 (CD) C Elsey 8-7 W Newnes 3
6 -012 ARCTIC GUEST 9 (CD,F) M Johnston 8-6 Dean McKeown 6
7 6-20 ROSIE'S GOLD 16 D Morris 8-4 Stephen Davies (5) 5
8 00-4 ASCOM PAGER TOO 37 P Howling 8-3 J Quinn 2
9 040- QUATTRO 80 (B) R Armstrong 7-13 R Price 9
10 -400 BUCKSKI ECHO 21 T Jones 7-8 S Dawson 4

7-2 Arctic Guest, 4-1 Kingston Brown, 9-2 Nedaarah, 5-1 Ashover, 6-1 Halham Tarn, 8-1 Rosie's Gold, 10-1 Without A Flag, 12-1 Quattro, 14-1 others.

3.05 RAPPORTEUR STAKES (£5,484: 1m 2f) (6)

1 -131 MULCIBER 21 (CD,F) G Harwood 5-9-5 M Hills 5
2 1012 NO SUBMISSION 8 (C,D,BF,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-5 S Wood 4
3 1240 RAPPORTEUR 21 (CD,F,G) C Elsey 7-9-5 W Newnes 1
4 640 MON PETITNAMOUR 5 (S) K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-13 Dean McKeown 3
5 436- DOUBLE FLUTTER 187 (D,F) M Channon 4-8-9 T Quinn 2
6 00- NOORA'S ROSE 124 C Brittain 4-8-6 J Penza 6

9-4 No Submission, 5-2 Mulciber, 3-1 Double Flutter, 9-2 Rapporteur, 14-1 Noora's Rose, 50-1 Mon Petitnamour.

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 2.05 Summer Express. 2.35 Quattro.

3.40 CONQUEST CUP (Handicap: £7,440: 1m) (12)

1 004- PAY HOMAGE 7J (C,D,F) I Balding 5-10-0 M Hills 1
2 114- DASWAKI 74 (CD,F,S) R Hannon 5-9-10 B Rouse 10
3 4114 ALLINSON'S MATE 7 (CD,F) T Barron 5-9-9 Alex Greaves 6
4 00-5 MERLINS WISH 7 (F) R Hannon 4-9-5 T Quinn 5
5 00-0 MASNUN 14 (C,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 8-9-5 D Biggs 4
6 0-02 CHEVEUX MITCHELL 7 (V,C,F,G) M Channon 6-9-0 G Carter 2
7 0245 AMENABLE 14 (CD,F,G,S) R Spicer 8-8-6 J McLaughlin 8
8 551- CHATHAM ISLAND 178 (C,F,G) C Brittain 5-8-3 B Doyle (5) 11
9 0120 RURAL LAD 2 (S) R Spicer 4-8-1 D Harrison (3) 12
10 4132 EXPRESS SERVICE 2 (C) W O'Gorman 4-7-13 Emma O'Gorman (3) 7
11 2004 RIPSNORTER 7 (D,S) J Bennett 4-7-12 N Carlisle 3
12 040- DANCE ON SIXPENCE 129 (V,F,G) H Collingridge 5-7-11 J Quinn 9

5-1 Cheveux Mitchell, 11-2 Allinson's Mate, 6-1 Merlins Wish, 7-1 Express Service, 8-1 Daswaki, 10-1 Rural Lad, Chatham Island, 12-1 Amenable, Pay Homage, 14-1 Ripsnorter, 16-1 Masnun, 20-1 Dance On Sixpence.

4.10 ALPINE MAIDEN GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y-0: £2,208: 1m) (8)

1 36-3 CHILTERN HUNDREDS 16 W Musson 9-0 D McCabe (7) 1
2 -043 GOOD IMAGE 7 A Jarvis 9-0 D Nicholls 8
3 42-6 HEART OF SPAIN 47 (BF) P Makin 9-0 W Ryan 7
4 -436 MEDLAND 9 A Denson 9-0 J Quinn 4
5 00-2 SCORCHER 7 C Brittain 9-0 B Doyle (5) 6
6 60 VADDALLIAN 9 J Akehurst 9-0 G Carter 3
7 6 NO GAIN 7 B Smart 8-9 Kim McDonnell (7) 5
8 6 SAXON SHORE 12 Lord Huntingdon 8-9 Dean McKeown 2

9-4 Scorcher, 3-1 Chiltern Hundreds, 4-1 Heart Of Spain, 5-1 Saxon Shore, 6-1 Good Image, 8-1 Medland, 16-1 Vaddallian, 25-1 No Gain.

4.40 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (£7,310: 7f) (13)

1 5313 INVOCATION 7 (CD,F) A Moore 6-10-0 N Adams 4
2 1-41 HENIU 28 (V,CD) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-8 T Quinn 5
3 4-16 KISSAVOS 14 (V,CD,BF,F) C Elsey 7-9-5 W Newnes 10
4 -500 NORTH ESK 14 (F) D Wilson 4-9-4 M Tebbutt 1
5 6101 NOBBY BARNES 30 (C) D Wilson 4-9-1 J Williams 3
6 4140 SALLY'S SON 7 (CD,F) W O'Gorman 7-9-0 Emma O'Gorman (3) 13
7 2-30 BANBURY FLYER 28 (C,BF,F) Mrs A King 5-8-11 A Garth (5) 8
8 3325 SARUM 23 (C,BF,F) C Wildman 7-8-8 Dale Gibson 7
9 6332 SCOTS LAW 14 (B,C,D,BF,F) R O'Sullivan 6-8-8 D Biggs 12
10 0-56 MEESON TIMES 42 (C,F,S) B Ellison 5-8-7 M Hills 6
11 4543 VELOCE 12 (V,D,F) A Bailey 5-8-7 A Mackay 9
12 6260 WELLSY LAD 14 (CD,S) D Chapman 6-8-4 S Wood 2
13 65-5 AIN'TLIFELIKETHAT 28 (B,CD,F,G,S) T Naughton 6-8-2 G Carter 11

4-1 Heniu, 5-1 Scots Law, 11-2 Ain'tlifelikethat, 6-1 Invocation, 7-1 Nobby Barnes, 8-1 Kissavos, 10-1 Veloce, Sarum, 12-1 Sally's Son, Wellsy Lad, 14-1 Banbury Flyer, 16-1 Meeson Times, 20-1 North Esk.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Hollinshead, 11 winners from 33 runners, 33.3%; Lord Huntingdon, 13 from 43, 30.2%; W O'Gorman, 32 from 139, 23.0%; M Johnston, 17 from 79, 21.5%; T Barron, 9 from 42, 21.4%; R O'Sullivan, 25 from 123, 20.3%.

JOCKEYS: Emma O'Gorman, 32 winners from 131 rides, 24.4%; Alex Greaves, 11 from 52, 21.2%; Dean McKeown, 29 from 142, 20.4%; T Quinn, 52 from 259, 20.1%; Stephen Davies, 7 from 39, 17.9%; M Hills, 26 from 160, 16.3%.

[illegible]

Newbury

Going: firm

2.00 (2m 1f ch) 1, KNIGHT'S SPUR (G McCourt, 13-8 fav); 2, Castle Diamond (A O'Hagan, 12-1); 3, Kibreet (P Holley, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 7-4 Dalkston (6th), 25 Capeze (4th), Tell You What (5th). 6 ran. 2½l, 2l, sh hd, 30l, 3l. J Webber at Banbury. Tote: £2.60; £1.60, £2.80. DF: £18.30. CSF: £17.37.

2.30 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, LIGHT VENEER (J McCarthy, 8-13 fav); 2, Sir Crusty (N Mann, 6-4). 2 ran. 30l. Mrs M Jones at Lambourn. Tote: £1.30.

3.00 (3m ch) 1, GIVUS A BUCK (P Holley, 11-8); 2, Knight Oil (J Osborne, 11-10 fav); 3, Turnberry Dawn (A Webb, 8-1). 3 ran. 2½l, 4l. D Elsworth at Whitsbury. Tote: £1.60. DF: £1.30. CSF: £2.88.

3.30 (2m 1f ch) 1, FRAGRANT DAWN (P Holley, 10-11 fav); 2, Blustery Fellow (W Humphreys, 20-1); 3, Al Hashimi (R Dunwoody, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 3 Wingspan (4th). 4 ran. 4l, 1l, dist. D Elsworth at Whitsbury. Tote: £1.80. DF: £8.00. CSF: £10.55.

4.00 (3m ch) 1, ONCE STUNG (Mr J Greenall, 4-6 fav); 2, Highland Echo (Mrs C Wonnacott, 11-2); 3, Mount Eaton Fox (Mr J Trice-Rolph, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Exciting Prospect (4th), 33 Den O'Tully (5th), 50 Rayon Vert (pu), Warrior's Promise (pu). 7 ran. 8l, 6l, 25l, 3½l. P Cheesbrough at Bishop Auckland. Tote: £1.60; £1.50, £2.30. DF: £3.60. CSF: £4.43.

4.30 (2m 5f hdle) 1, SWEET GEORGE (J Kavanagh, 11-2); 2, Waterford Castle (C Llewellyn, 9-2); 3, Freds Melody (C Maude, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Sea Search (4th), 3 Pandy (5th). 5 ran. 1½l, 1½l, 5l, 6l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £5.40; £1.70, £2.60. DF: £15.80. CSF: £24.81.

Jackpot: £440.50.

Placepot: £192.40.

Kelso

Going: good

2.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, KALKO (P Niven, Evens fav); 2, Ste-Jen (N Bentley, 9-1); 3, Personal Hazard (L Wyer, 9-4). ALSO RAN: 10 Petrol (5th), 11 Tronchetto (4th), Straw Thatch, 14 Palacegate King, 33 Tawafij (6th), 100 Young Gala (ur), Montrave. 10 ran. Sh hd, 5l, nk, sh hd, 5l. M Hammond at Middleham. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £2.00, £1.40. DF: £9.00. CSF: £11.90.

2.50 (2m 6f 110yd ch) 1, PIPER O'DRUMMOND (A Merrigan, 11-1); 2, Beyond Reason (N Doughty, 4-1); 3, Down The Road (T Reed, 9-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 4 Strong Sound (f), 9-2 Fettuccine (f), 8 Sandy Andy (4th), 33 Invernate (f), Kirmeston (ur), Equator (5th). 9 ran. 2l, 1l, 15l, 2½l. Mrs S Bramall at Thirsk. Tote: £18.10; £2.50, £2.60, £1.30. DF: £32.10. CSF: £51.24.

3.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, MAJED (P Niven, 15-8 fav); 2, Beltton (M Dwyer, 7-2); 3, Golden Isle (K Johnson, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Loch Garanne, 8 Leading Prospect, 10 Seagull Hollow (pu), 11 Ringland, 14 Relaxamillion, 20 Kidlaw (4th), 50 Highlandman, Rapid Mover, Four Deep, 66 Major Bell (5th), 100 Judicious Captain (6th), Make Me Proud, 500 Dark Fountain. 16 ran. 2l, 3l, 5l, ½l, 2½l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £2.80; £1.30, £2.60, £8.70. DF: £5.10. CSF: £8.79.

3.50 (3m 4f ch) 1, RUN PET RUN (Mr T Jenks, 7-1); 2, Off The Bru (Mr J Bradburne, 6-1); 3, Man's Best Friend (Mr M Buckley, 12-1). ALSO RAN: Evens fav Wheat Fettle (4th), 6 Bold Spartan (6th), 7 Carousel Rocket (5th), 25 Wot Pet (f), 50 Spy Hill (bd), 66 Super Fountain (pu), 100 Majic Rain (pu). 10 ran. 1½l, 3l, 6l, hd, dist. P Monteith at Rosewell. Tote: £6.00; £1.30, £2.40, £2.70. DF: £30.70. CSF: £45.55. Tricast: £454.27.

4.20 TIMES RISING STARS HUNTER CHASE (Qualifier: amateurs: £1,829: 3m 1f)

SEE FACING PAGE

4.50 (2m 2f hdle) 1, DIZZY (A Dobbin, 7-4 fav); 2, Seon (N Bentley, 9-2); 3, Cool Dude (A Larnach, 85-40). ALSO RAN: 8 Yamanouchi (4th), 16 San Pier Niceto, 20 Golden Reverie (bd), Aragon Ayr (5th), 33 Another Fountain (5th), Lerloch, 40 Just Pulham (f), Grey Merlin, 150 Mogul Dancer (pu). 12 ran. NR: Preobrajensky. 5l, ½l, 12l, 15l, 1½l. P Monteith at Rosewell. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £2.80, £1.40. DF: £4.50. CSF: £10.31. Tricast: £16.92.

Placepot: £14.40.

Fontwell Park

Going: good to firm (firm in places)

2.15 (2m 2f hdle) 1, SINGING REPLY (S McNeill, 5-2 fav); 2, Othet (Peter Hobbs, 4-1); 3, Meeroug (J Clarke, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Windsor Highness (pu), Lady Bunting (5th), 20 Arcadian Princess (4th), 33 Sukey Tawdry (6th), Don't Yer Know, 50 Teds Tactics (f). 9 ran. 2½l, 12l, 2½l, 1½l, dist. D Marks at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.50; £1.50, £1.20, £1.70. DF: £8.00. CSF: £11.75.

2.45 (2m 3f ch) 1, ST ATHANS LAD (D Morris, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Scotoni (D O'Sullivan, 3-1 jt-fav); 3, Father Dowling (A Maguire, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Millie Belle (pu), 9-2 Prince's Court (4th), 9 Commanchero (ur), 16 Hamper (pu). 7 ran. 10l, 10l, 6l. R Curtis at Carshalton. Tote: £3.60; £2.40, £2.20. DF: £4.30. CSF: £11.61.

3.15 (2m 6f hdle) 1, ON THE SAUCE (P Scudamore, 7-2); 2, Sand King (N Williamson, 15-2); 3, Across The Card (G Moore, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 3 fav Prudent Peggy (pu), 9 North Bannister (pu), 10 It's Not My Fault (5th), 14 Rabbit's Foot, 16 Cornish Cossack (4th), 50 Kenya Eye (6th). 9 ran. NR: Allyfair. 8l, 3l, 6l, 12l, 25l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £3.70; £1.60, £2.70, £2.10. DF: £14.80. CSF: £20.46. Allyfair (4-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 20p in pound.

3.45 (2m 2f hdle) 1, EL VOLADOR (A Maguire, 8-11 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Gold Glen (M A Fitzgerald, 14-1); 3, Sure Pride (G Moore, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Welsh Singer (4th), 7 Romanian, 9 Bold Steve (6th), 16 Amphigory (5th), 20 The Whip, 50 Double U Dee, 66 Elwazir (ur). 10 ran. 3½l, 1½l, 1l, ½l, ½l. R O'Sullivan at Bognor Regis. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £4.10, £3.70. DF: £9.80. CSF: £12.60.

4.15 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, SKIPPING TIM (P Scudamore, 8-15 fav); 2, Thats The Business (A Maguire, 8-1); 3, Kingfisher Bay (B Clifford, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 11 Rhode Island Red (6th), 16 Pukka Major (5th), 25 Miramac (4th). 6 ran. 4l, 7l, 25l, 4l, dist. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £1.50; £1.20, £2.20. DF: £3.20. CSF: £5.15.

4.45 (3m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, JOKER JACK (A Procter, 5-1); 2, Just As Hopeful (R Davis, 16-1); 3, Menebuck (Mr Andrew Lillingston, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 fav Lasting Memory (5th), 7-2 Mick's Tycoon (4th). 5 ran. NR: Glebelands Girl. 3l, 3l, 1½l, 2l. R Dean at Maidstone. Tote: £8.00; £1.90, £3.90. DF: £37.20. CSF: £33.47. Glebelands Girl (7-2) deemed not to have started — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 20p in pound.

Placepot: £114.10.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.10 (1m) 1, Captain Marmalade (K Rutter, 14-1); 2, Absalom's Pillar (14-1); 3, Beher (7-2). Pacific Spirit 7-4 fav. 9 ran. 2l, 3l. D Thom. Tote: £13.90; £1.30, £3.70, £1.10. DF: £84.90. CSF: £164.32.

2.40 (1m) 1, Sirtelimar (A Mackay, 5-2); 2, Golden Klair (5-1); 3, Mentalasanythin (7-4 fav). 7 ran. 3l, nk. R Spicer. Tote: £3.50; £2.50, £3.80. DF: £16.30. CSF: £15.02.

3.10 (1m) 1, Hotsocks (Kim McDonnell, 4-1); 2, Don't Be Said (5-2); 3, Vilamar (12-1). Nikki Noo Noo 2-1 fav. 7 ran. 2½l, 2½l. Pat Mitchell. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £2.00. DF: £8.20. CSF: £14.55.

3.40 (7f) 1, Debsy Do (O Pears, 3-1); 2, Lord Naskra (8-4 fav); 3, Moscow Dynamo (7-1). 10 ran. Hd, 1l. S Norton. Tote: £3.50; £2.50, £3.80. DF: £16.30. CSF: £15.02.

4.10 (6f) 1, Creche (E Husband, 11-1); 2, Appealing Times (25-1); 3, Roseate Lodge (6-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: African Chimes. 1l, 3l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £13.90; £2.90, £2.70. DF: £63.50. CSF: £156.55. Tricast: £475.63.

4.40 (1m 4f) 1, Modest Hope (J McLaughlin, 4-1); 2, Tempering (9-2); 3, Five To Seven (13-2). Horizon 5-4 fav. 6 ran. 7l, 2½l. R Spicer. Tote: £7.50; £2.00, £2.00. DF: £14.60. CSF: £19.54.

Placepot: £488.00.

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Piggott has Derby ride

LESTER Piggott rides the ex-French Tom's Charge, trained by Patrick Biancone, in the 14-runner Hong Kong Derby over nine furlongs at Sha Tin tomorrow.

Third last time, Tom's Charge has sound each-way prospects but is only Biancone's second string to Helene Star (Eric Legrix), who has won his last four races.

Happy Guy, the mount of Tony Cruz, who was second to Helene Star over six furlongs then went on to win the one-mile Classic Trial, beating five of tomorrow's opponents. The Irish-bred, who raced for Tommy Stack under the name of Festive Cheer, made all that day and is the one to beat in the Derby.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Doncaster, Windsor, Wolverhampton, Southwell (All-weather).
TUESDAY: Leicester, Sedgefield, Lingfield Park (AW).
WEDNESDAY: Bangor, Catterick, Folkestone, Southwell (AW).
THURSDAY: Carlisle, Towcester, Wincanton.
FRIDAY: Sandown Park, Ayr, Market Rasen, Worcester.
SATURDAY: Sandown Park, Chepstow, Ayr, Wolverhampton, Southwell.
(Flat meetings in bold)

Fifth Fontwell win for St Athans Lad

ST ATHANS Lad gained his fifth Fontwell win of the season in the Worthing Novices Handicap Chase at the Sussex course yesterday. The 3-1 joint favourite made all to beat market rival Scotoni by ten lengths.

Roger Curtis, the winning trainer, said: "He will come back here for the Certain Justice Handicap Chase. Certain Justice was the first horse I saw win here as a boy and he won 14 on the course, which shows we still have a long way to go."

Singing Reply opened trainer Doug Marks's account for 1993 when winning the opening Tortington Selling Hurdle.

Last year, Marks had a bet of £100 at 50-1 with bookmaker Victor Chandler that he would train ten winners, but only had nine.

"This year I have £100 at 6-1 for the same number," Marks said. "I bought Singing Reply out of John Gosden's stable and she cost me a fortune. She is moderate but very sweet." Marks had to go to 4,600 guineas to keep the mare at the auction.

-0898 100222. Calls cost 36p per ... fee of £5.00 waived if you join by Direct Debit. Cars aged 7 years or older are subject to an additional fee of £10.00.
NATIONAL BREAKDOWN ALWAYS ON CALL NATIONWIDE

Wales wait for Walker to fly first international hurdle



Gerald Davies talks to Nigel Walker, the former international hurdler, who completes his successful switch to rugby union in Cardiff today

The days when Buchanesque heroes like C. B. Fry and, later, Denis Compton could discard their Test cricket pullovers, hail a taxi and then pull on their football jerseys, and perform equally effortlessly for Corinthian Casuals or Arsenal, are fossilised in a less earnest time. It adds now to our store of what passes for fiction.

Just as it is that we will not see the likes of Wilf Wooller play rugby for Cardiff in winter and captain Glamorgan at cricket in the summer. Modern sport insists we admire the one-vision expert and are suspicious of anything else.

Yet the transformation of Nigel Walker from performing in the highest echelons of international athletics to play international rugby union for Wales fulfils a deep-rooted yearning in us all.

This is not simply nostalgia for some uncertain golden age, it is not a return to the childhood Wilson-of-the-Wizard stuff. Rather it is the satisfaction that comes from seeing an accepted wisdom firmly upended: a sportsman can still be more than one-dimensional.

And the smile, another rarity among latter-day sporting folk but which is never far from Walker's face, hints it might be just a bit of fun, too.

But there is nothing laid-back about Walker's attitude to sport. Sharing a conversation with the former athlete, who makes his debut on the wing for Wales against Ireland today, is to understand the difference between the man who took his solitary mark in the Los Angeles Coliseum in 1984, and looked down the track in the quarter-finals of the Olympic 110 metres high hurdles to find there was nowhere to hide, and the 15-man game in which there are all the excuses in the world if you want to kid yourself.

Pared to the bone, between block and tape, there are no bluffs. Between first blast and last in rugby, there are many: too many. Rugby is brutishly tough, athletics is analytically tough. To rugby, Walker brings the athletic track's harsher reality. "To be perfectly honest" sprinkles his conversation and honest he is. As he had to be about high standards in the way a rugby player has rarely been taught. He was fourth in two Commonwealth Games and a European championships. He also ran in the 1987 world championships.

"There was pressure in Los Angeles but I was running for myself," he said. "I will not be as nervous as that on Saturday but there are different pressures: I must not let my team-mates down. It is a new experience for me and I have to prove myself. I have to prove my defence is good and that I can take the high ball."

It is the prejudice he inherits as a former athlete. The prejudice that says he is simply a finely tuned runner and no more.

Three first-class coaches watched him perform in the Snelling Worthington sevens in August, shook their heads and dismissed him. He would last until October. What must these wiseacres now think?

"The handling came back quickly," he said, having last played in a Wales Schools' trial 11 years ago. "But more subtle is the awareness of the pitch and the positions to take up. That takes time. As for tackling ... I've missed two this season."

Under the guidance of Keith Lancey, his personal coach, Walker, 29, 5ft 11in and 12st 9lb, has purposely put on half a stone. "It's useful, not when I am running at players but when players are running at me. I've got to take it," he said.

Mark Ring, the former Wales centre, prompted him to think about rugby once more and, when he failed to make the Britain team for the Barcelona Olympics last year, the seed sown by Ring took shape and he decided to return.

"Perhaps I am too harsh on myself," he said. "But athletics forces you to be strict. You cannot leave anything to chance if you want to be the best."

His first experience back, at the Cardiff High School sevens during the summer, was not as comfortable as he would have liked. By his estimation, he allowed 14 points to slip by. Typically, it was this that worried him not the nine tries he scored.

Walker, immediately popular, has now scored 14 tries for Cardiff in 15 Heineken League matches and given Welsh rugby a much-needed shot in the arm.

It has been a good year for him. He got married last April and was selected to play for Cardiff and the Wales squad. He has changed jobs from the civil service to the Sports Council, his wife, Mary, has become pregnant and he has been selected to play for his country. If aiming to make the club scene was his initial ambition, what chance now a British Isles tour?

It is of the ambitious stuff the genial Walker is made. But, as he says, a good performance for Wales must come first.

DAVID ROGERS



Call to arms: Walker makes his debut for Wales against Ireland in Cardiff today



"May the best team win. Or failing that, England."

ANDREW FRASER.

WHYTE & MACKAY

Strange decade of Celtic foibles

BY GERALD DAVIES

THE most intriguing statistic about today's fixture at Cardiff Arms Park, and the most starkly expressive of Wales's frail and disordered years, is that Wales have not beaten Ireland there since 1983.

That ten years should have elapsed is hardly believable when it is considered that in the previous 12 years Ireland had succeeded only twice regardless where the matches were played. They were years, as other teams also found, when Wales's national stadium had built itself a reputation as a fortress that Murrayfield is beginning to boast.

But this is not the whole story. Whereas Ireland may rejoice in this record of credit, they need look only to their own results at Lansdowne Road to find there is also a debit of almost equal proportions. During the equivalent period, they have won only once, in 1990, on their own patch. When so much store is set on home advantage, this must rank as a considerable record of achievement for both countries. This seems to take Celtic fraternisation a mite too far. It ought really to stop. Will it today?

The consistency of this sequence, apart from each country having won the triple crown once during this ten-year year period, indicates not loss of form, which might manifest itself once or twice, but a lack of direction and a dwindling confidence. Ireland have gone without success in their past ten international matches all told and their future remains uncertain.

Since Wales last won the championship in 1988, it is they and Ireland who have been battling it out for bottom position. They shared it in 1989 and in 1990 Wales suffered a whitewash. Their drawn game against each other the following season gave them their only points of the season. In 1992 it was Ireland's turn to be whitewashed.

It would appear that Wales have halted their own dramatic downward spiral. Two wins last season was what their coach, Alan Davies, asked for and got. He asked for the same this year and, in beating England, is halfway there. Today is important in not only attempting to stop Ireland's long sequence at the ground but, were the Welsh team to succeed, they might be in a position to start making the place as difficult a venue for future visitors as it has been in the past.

Ireland had to make a late change when Francis, their lock, dropped out on Thursday. Galwey moves from the flank to lock and Robinson comes in at No. 8. For Wales, Nigel Walker replaces Proctor on the wing as the only change.

CARDIFF TEAMS

WALES		IRELAND
M A Rayer (Cardiff)	15	C P Clarke (Terenure Coll)
I C Evans (Llanelli, capt)	14	R M Wallace (Garryowen)
M R Hall (Cardiff)	13	V J G Cunningham (St Mary's Coll)
I S Gibbs (Swansea)	12	P P A Danaher (Garryowen)
N Walker (Cardiff)	11	S P Geoghegan (London Irish)
N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)	10	E P Elwood (Lansdowne)
R N Jones (Swansea)	9	M T Bradley (Cork Constit, capt)
R L Evans (Llanelli)	1	N J Popplewell (Greystones)
N Meek (Pontypool)	2	T J Kingston (Dolphin)
H Williams-Jones (S W Police)	3	P M Clohessy (Young Munster)
E W Lewis (Llanelli)	6	P T J O'Hara (Cork Constit)
G O Llewellyn (Neath)	4	P S Johns (Dungannon)
A H Copsey (Llanelli)	5	M J Galwey (Shannon)
R E Webster (Swansea)	7	W D McBride (Malone)
S Davies (Swansea)	8	B F Robinson (London Irish)

Referee: A R MacNeill (Australia)

Replacements: 16 R H StJ B Moon (Llanelli), 17 A Clement (Swansea), 18 A Lamerton (Llanelli), 19 J D Davies (Neath), 20 M A Perego (Llanelli), 21 P Arnold (Swansea)

Replacements: 16 B T Glennon (Lansdowne), 17 N G Malone (London Irish), 18 R Saunders (London Irish), 19 S J McKinty (Edinburgh Univ), 20 P D McCarthy (Cork Constit), 21 J N Murphy (Greystones)

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Runs to resort	Weather	Temp °C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA							
Igls	30	120	good	fair	bright	-2	4/3
(Best snow on upper slopes; all lifts operating)							
St Anton	60	380	good	hard	bright	-5	4/3
(Good snow at Valluga; some lower slopes wearing thin)							
Schladming	35	150	good	hard	cloudy	-3	4/3
(Good snow cover at all levels; best snow on upper slopes)							
Soll	40	90	good	hard	unsettled	-1	4/3
(Best snow above mid-station; all lifts operating)							
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	35	250	good	hard	sunny	0	3/3
(Good snow at Vaujany and on glacier; 58 of 87 lifts operating)							
Flaine	75	275	good	good	sunny	0	3/3
(Links open; good conditions at all levels)							
Serre Chevalier	50	150	good	wom	sunny	6	1/3
(Best snow above mid-stations; all links open)							
Val d'Isère	160	250	good	good	sunny	-10	3/3
(Good snow at all levels; Fornet and Solaise particularly good)							
ITALY							
Bormio	20	155	good	good	sunny	0	2/3
(Best snow on upper slopes; extensive skiing available)							
Courmayeur	70	200	good	good	sunny	8	3/3
(Good snow at all levels; 25 of 27 lifts operating)							
SWITZERLAND							
Davos	70	200	good	good	bright	-8	4/3
(Good snow at all levels; all lifts operating)							
Grindelwald	40	150	good	good	sunny	4	3/3
(Best snow at Klaine Scheidegg; all lifts running)							
Lenzerheide	60	90	good	good	sunny	-4	4/3
(All lifts operating; 50 kilometres of cross-country tracks prepared)							
Verbier	40	330	good	hard	sunny	-5	3/3
(All lifts, links and runs open; icy patches on lower slopes)							

Information supplied by Ski Hotline

Saturday portrait: Stuart Barnes, by David Hands, rugby correspondent

Cavalier joins the roundheads for belated tilt at glory

ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN



Stuart Barnes has been called many things during his sporting career: maverick, gambler, *enfant terrible*. Supporters of Newport and Bristol, clubs he left in what seemed to them to be undue haste, thought of much worse names.

How about honest?

At the end of each day Barnes seeks to look in his mirror and be happy with what he sees. If, in the process, he has offended some, hurt others, that is regrettable but then, the Bath stand-off half has never been frightened to speak his mind, to take the hard option.

He comes through as the cavalier of Sellars and Yeatman's humourous *1066 and All That*, "wrong but romantic" (which is not to say that his long-time rival, *Rob Andrew, is "right but repulsive"*). Had Barnes been born three centuries earlier (his wavy locks during his student days hinted of that era), it would have been easy to imagine him riding with Prince Rupert against the Roundheads, the dashing cavalry charge wasted by stopping to loot the baggage train.

Against Scotland at Twickenham today, Barnes begins his first five nations' championship match. At 30. His first England international was in 1984. Since, he has won eight caps, of which four were as a replacement. Such a record is redolent of waste.

In the wake of events that followed England's one-point defeat by Wales in Cardiff last month — the removal of Andrew, the restoration of Barnes — it is easy to forget that he might not even have been in the frame but for injury to David Pears, the Harlequin. Last season it was Andrew first, Pears second and Barnes, captain of the B team, third.

This season Pears has scarcely played and Barnes has returned to the squad. To the replacements bench which, six years ago, he found so uncomfortable that he relinquished it. That was one of several significant decisions he has made that have contributed to the feeling of a talent doomed never to blossom on the international rugby stage.

Barnes could have played for Wales but turned the chance aside. Born in Grays, Essex, though very far from being Essex Man, in November 1962, he and his three sisters moved to Newport when business interests took his father to Gwent. While at Bassaleg School he won Welsh caps at 15 and 19 group level (his direct opponent for Scotland in 1980 was Gavin Hastings, since Barnes was then a full back) and captained the senior group three times in 1981.

A few days after playing against England Schools he was called into the senior Welsh squad: "As a schoolboy, when you get asked to play for the country you live in, you don't stop and think about it. I'm still very fond of people from Welsh circles, but I'm not Welsh and never have been."

That year he took up a place at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, to read modern history, and won the first of three Blues as a freshman (the following year Andrew did the same at Cambridge). He might have studied English, such is his taste for good literature, and his catholic interests have led him to an appreciation of poetry, architecture, good food and wine, the racing formbook and the friendship of the gregarious, cosmopolitan bunch who make up the Bath Football Club.

> I believed that, in an amateur game, if I was not having fun, what was I doing there?

Oxford moved him to stand-off because they recognised a footballer when they saw one, and kept him there when Hugo MacNeill, Ireland's full back, took up residence. "I enjoyed full back because of the scope and variety. I think it's a fabulous position. It's the freest position you can play in."

Barnes took up his England qualification and joined Bristol, for whom he played in the 1984 cup final, the first of Bath's notable triumphs. Barnes got the message and joined Bath.

That year he made his first appearance as an England replacement but could not tour South Africa because of his final examinations, though he would not have gone, in any case, on moral grounds. It was a good tour to miss. Barnes was called up against the 1984 Australians for his first cap, and was dropped for the next match, when Andrew played.

But in 1985 Andrew could not tour New Zealand because of his university finals and Barnes went, the brightest spark in a mediocre party. Once home, he was dropped. Is it any wonder he became somewhat bitter about the vagaries of selection?

In 1987, World Cup year, he pulled out altogether. Barnes, nicknamed "Barrel", had drained the dregs and was no longer prepared to occupy the replacements bench when he could be playing. Six months later, with England under new management, he was back and toured Australia and Fiji, where he won his eighth and most recent cap before today. In 1989 he withdrew again, preferring to give his business interests and the captaincy of Bath the time he believed they deserved.

"I regret none of those decisions, which is not to say that I would do the same now, because circumstances have changed. I believed that, in an amateur game, if I was not having fun, what was I doing there? I went back to Bath and rekindled the old fire. But I can't look back now and say I was wrong."

But after a career spent missing rugby union's international prizes (though groaning with domestic ones), can Barnes prove that life begins at 30? The incentive is there: the fire still burns, though tempered by maturity. Barnes gives himself another couple of years of top-level rugby in which to justify the faith of his many supporters, to prove he is no nearly-man.

Barnes plays on the game's edge. Not for him the safe haven of the forwards, the tactical but limited address. He will want to rule the roost today, accepting the need for a game plan but demanding it be subject to change if, in the eye of the pivotal player, it seems right. By doing so he will ask more of his colleagues, he will take them out of the comfort zone, he will explore unconsidered possibilities.

There are parallels here. In 1979 England's selectors watched Alan Old play stand-off in the North XV that beat New Zealand. A day later they invited Les Cusworth to play for England, but to play as Old played. England failed, Cusworth was dropped and, though he came again, England never seemed at ease with him. They knew he might win games, they feared he might lose them too.

That is a risk Barnes cheerfully accepts. "When things don't go my way I don't get uptight. I have been pretty relaxed. That has made me a better player. You can't afford to get uptight at stand-off. The only pressure I feel is the pressure I put on myself and I do that every time I go out and play. I try to go out and be positive, to make things happen."

That, notoriously, is what England could not do in Cardiff last month and what they have not done in the few tight matches of the largely victorious last three years. That is not to say that the core of the team is not strong, nor the organisation sturdy. But when the need for that extra ingredient which touches a fine side with greatness is apparent, it has seldom been forthcoming.

It may be a flash of individual genius such as Rory Underwood produced against Ireland in 1991, it may be the subtle tactical appreciation absent during the World Cup final against Australia the same year.

Does Barnes have a bit of both? Today we shall see.

Unpredictable Barnes can wrest prize from Scotland

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

SCOTLAND have arrived at Twickenham in search of rugby union's mythical triple crown eight times in 82 years, but have succeeded only once. This may cause concern to the enterprising Borders sweater manufacturer who has already begun to turn out celebratory products.

However, the prizes for Scotland remain tangible, an aspect their English opponents are content to play on. Victory today would mean not only the triple crown but also, in the hundredth contest for the trophy, the Calcutta Cup, and a potential five nations' championship for which, for the first time, a trophy will be awarded this season.

Points difference and, after that, tries scored will determine the champions, and this morning, representatives of the five nations' committee will receive the handsome silver trophy specially commissioned last year.

If Scotland win today — and droves of Scots have flocked south to see them, sending the price of black market tickets soaring — they must wait until the final round of the championship, on March 20, to know their fate. If Wales were to beat Ireland in Cardiff today, they would go to Paris in a fortnight seeking to overturn a French team that also has an interest in the championship.

After defeat by Wales, England can achieve neither grand slam nor triple crown, but they have every prospect of the championship if they can beat Scotland and Ireland and, as important, start scoring with the rapidity they managed last season.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	2	1	0	1	26	19	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	18	14	2
Wales	1	1	0	0	10	9	2
England	2	1	0	1	25	25	2
Ireland	1	0	0	1	3	15	0

RESULTS: January 16: England 16, France 15; Scotland 15, Ireland 3. February 3: France 11, Scotland 3; Wales 10, England 9.

GAMES TO COME: Today: England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland. March 20: France v Wales, Ireland v England.

For all the ebullience of the Scots, England must start favourites on a ground where Scotland have won only four times.

While the Scots say farewell to Ian McGeechan, who has yet to win at Twickenham either as player or coach, England supporters will pay their respects to Peter Winterbottom and Wade Dooley. Both intend to retire from international rugby after this season, unless the Lions require them in New Zealand.

The concern of the captain, Will Carling, is to get the English show back on the road, a show with two fascinating sub-plots: the head-to-head of possible Lions captains, Carling and Gavin Hastings, and the performance of Stuart Barnes. For years, West Countrymen have yearned to see if Barnes can do for England what he has done at stand-off half for Bath.

"We have picked Stuart because we want him to play up close to the gain line," Mike Slemen, coach to the England's backs, said. "I don't think we have produced the right kind of ball yet. We have lost the focus of what to do inside before we go wide, and hopefully Stuart will give us that focus back."

The Scots believe Barnes to be under pressure; England believe that, given the rewards available to Scotland and the sheer unpredictability of Barnes, the pressure is on the visitors. Barnes's ability to exploit the blind side may bring out the best in Jeremy Guscott, his club colleague, just as the younger Underwood may spur his older brother to fresh heights.

The England forwards are aware they must put a clamp on Gary Armstrong and be wary of Gavin Hastings joining his line, but these are known quantities. England themselves seek a touch of the unknown: can Barnes deliver?

TWICKENHAM TEAMS

ENGLAND		SCOTLAND
J M Webb (Bath)	15	A G Hastings (Watsonians, capt)
T Underwood (Leicester)	14	A G Stanger (Hawick)
W D C Carling (Harlequins, capt)	13	S Hastings (Watsonians)
J C Guscott (Bath)	12	A G Shiel (Melrose)
R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)	11	D A Stark (Boroughmuir)
S Barnes (Bath)	10	C M Chalmers (Melrose)
C D Morris (Orrell)	9	G Armstrong (Jed-Forest)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	1	P H Wright (Boroughmuir)
B C Moore (Harlequins)	2	K S Milne (Heriot's FP)
J A Probyn (Wasps)	3	A P Burnell (London Scottish)
M C Teague (Moseley)	6	D J Turnbull (Hawick)
M C Bayfield (Northampton)	4	*A I Reed (Bath)*
W A Dooley (Preston Grasshoppers)	5	D F Cronin (London Scottish)
P J Winterbottom (Harlequins)	7	I R Morrison (London Scottish)
B B Clarke (Bath)	8	G W Weir (Melrose)

Referee: B W Stirling (Ireland)

Replacements: 16 P R de Glanville (Bath), 17 G R Andrew (Wasps), 18 S J Bates (Wasps), 19 V E Ubogu (Bath), 20 G J Oliver (Northampton), 21 T A K Rodber (Northampton Army)

Replacements: 16 K M Logan (Stirling County), 17 G P J Townsend (Gala), 18 D B Millard (London Scottish), 19 C D Hogg (Melrose), 20 G R Isaac (Gala), 21 I Corcoran (Gala)

England expose big gulf in skill

England A	66
Spain	5

By David Hands

THE difficulties England face in finding worthwhile opposition at A team level have been amply illustrated this season. Having beaten Italy A 59-0 a month ago, they established a record at Richmond yesterday by beating the full Spanish team by four goals, seven tries and a penalty goal to a solitary goal.

Such margins profit neither victor nor vanquished. But, as Peter Rossborough, the assistant coach of the A side, said: "We cannot tell in advance how good the opposition will be. Last year in Spain they gave us a tough match, but in a match like this it's hard for players to motivate themselves and hard for us to assess them."

By the interval, England had scored 42 points, four of their seven tries coming from Hackney. But the Leicester wing was largely the beneficiary of his powerful midfield, which established its superiority early and in the second half was justifiably disappointed to see the ball kept close to the pack or taken down the short side with some regularity.

Such a policy could be justified by a desire to experiment before the last of England's four A games — which will surely be harder — against Ireland on March 19. But in fact, England lost their shape and even lost a try in the dying moments when the Spanish forwards worked Hernández-Gil, the scrum half, over.

In such a context, the use of Ojomoh at open side flanker was irrelevant. He and Greenwood supported the back division well and Hull enjoyed his first game at this level for three years with 21 points, taking over the goalkicking just when Challinor seemed to have worked a nasty slice out of his system.

SCORERS: England A: Tries: Hackney (4), Hull (2), Dunn, Johnson, Thorneycroft, Richards, Challinor. Conversions: Hull (4) Penalty goal: Hull. Spain: Try: Hernandez-Gil.

ENGLAND A: P Hull (Bristol); H Thorneycroft (Northampton), S Potter (Leicester), D Hopley (Wasps), S Hackney (Leicester); P Challinor (Harlequins), M Dawson (Northampton); C Clark (Swansea), K Dunn (Wasps), D Garforth (Leicester), M Greenwood (Wasps), M Johnson (Leicester), A Blackmore (Bristol), S Ojomoh (Bath), D Richards (Leicester, captain).

SPAIN: F Puertas (Bayonne, captain); J Torres (Ciencias Sevilla), G Rivero (Polaci), A Miño (Ciencias Sevilla, J Diez, Getxo), P Gutiérrez (Arquitectura), M Sánchez (Ciencias Sevilla), J Hernández-Gil (Arquitectura), Jorge Gutiérrez (Liceo Francés), F de la Calle (Valladolid), R Lezaca (Atlético Bera Bera), J Etxeberria (Getxo), A Malo (Santboiana), V Ezenarda (El Salvador). Jaime Gutiérrez (Arquitectura), M Auzmendi (Santboiana; rep. A Beloki, Atlético Bera Bera)

Referee: D Davies (Wales)

☐ England's win over Scotland in the student international at Basingstoke was even more overwhelming. They scored 12 tries in a 76-20 dismissal of spirited opponents, Diprose illustrating their forward domination with three tries from push-overs. Handley, at stand-off half, moved the line well, which helped Greenwood to two tries.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

SEVILLE: Indoor meeting: Women: 60m hurdles: L Narozhilenko (Russ), 7.83sec (world record).

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG LEAGUE: First division: Men: London Towers 101 (Moore 30, P Scantlebury 22), Guildford Kings 100 (Gordon 28, Brown 21) (OT)
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York Knicks 125, Utah Jazz 111; New Jersey Nets 116, Orlando Magic 97, Denver Nuggets 103, Portland Trail Blazers 88; Seattle SuperSonics 138, Charlotte Hornets 112; Cleveland Cavaliers 103, Minnesota Timberwolves 85, Indiana Pacers 136, Atlanta Hawks 111, Los Angeles Clippers 117, Washington Bullets 98.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Perth: Queensland 343-8 (S Law 116) v Western Australia. Adelaide: South Australia 302-6 (G Blewett 119, J Brayshaw 91) v Victoria.
RED STRIPE CUP: Bridgetown: Barbados 79; Trinidad and Tobago 113-5.
JALLANDHAR: Third one-day international: at England Under-19 135-7: India Under-19 136-5. India won by 5 wickets

FOOTBALL

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP: Group A: Australia 2, Colombia 1.
Late results on Wednesday
EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-finals: First leg: Olympiakos Piraeus 1, Atlético Madrid 1, Antwerp 0, Steaua Bucharest 0.
UEFA CUP: Quarter-final: First leg: Benfica 2, Juventus 1.
PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Nottingham Forest 0, Blackburn Rovers 1. Second division: Port Vale 1, West Bromwich 1; Hull 1, Derby 3.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE CUP: Manne 1, Gretna 1.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Bristol GS 3, Kings College, Taunton 0. Adidas Under-15 Trophy: Somerset 0, Avon 4. Mars Under-18 Trophy: Third round: Wemorton, Derby 1, Longlands, Middlesbrough 1. Diamk Trophy: Third round: North Chailerton 3, Bromsgrove 1.

GOLF

EL SALER, Valencia: Mediterranean Open: Early second-round leaders (GB and Ireland unless stated): 135: J Payne, 68, 67. 136: J Pernevik (Swe), 71, 67. 139: M Roe, 69, 70; R Alvarez (Arg), 71, 68; D Feherty, 70, 69; M Harwood (Aus), 69, 70; S Luna (Sp), 67, 72. 140: F Nobilo (NZ), 71, 69; G Turner (NZ), 72, 68; J M Olazabal (Sp), 71, 69; M Davis, 68, 72. 141: E Romero (Arg), 68, 73; C Montgomerie, 69, 72; A Hunter, 72, 69; P Baker, 70, 71; S Torrance, 71, 70; G Evans, 73, 68; J M Canizares (Sp), 71, 70; T Level (Fr), 71, 70; J McHenry, 72, 69; P Broadhurst, 72, 69. 142: R Claydon, 72, 70; H-P Thul (Ger), 69, 73; C McClellan (US), 70, 72; G Brand Jr, 70, 72; M Lanner (Swe), 73, 69; C Rocca (It), 70, 72; J Hobday (SA), 74, 68; G Ralph, 74, 68. 143: P Way, 75, 68; R Chapman, 72, 71; D W Beason (SA), 72, 71; D Gilford, 70, 73; V Singh (Fij), 68, 74; K Waters, 72, 71; J Robinson, 72, 71; E O'Connell, 74, 69. 144: P Price, 73, 71; A Binaghi (It), 73, 71; P Lawrie, 77, 67; M Sunesson (Swe), 74, 70; B Malley (US), 73, 71; F Lindgren (Swe), 71, 73; J Haeggman (Swe), 69, 75. D Hospital (Sp), 72

HOCKEY

MEN'S REPRESENTATIVE TOURNAMENT: Army 0, British Police 1; Civil Service 1, Royal Navy 0; Army 0, Civil Service 2; British Police 3, Royal Navy 2 (at Aldershot).
WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Civil Service 4, Royal Navy 0. WRAC 0, Civil Service 0 (at Aldershot)
SCHOOLS MATCH: Perse 1, Bedford 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston Bruins 4, Vancouver Canucks 3; Chicago Blackhawks 3, Quebec Nordiques 3 (OT); St Louis Blues 2, Calgary Flames 1; Winnipeg Jets 5, Edmonton Oilers 3; Los Angeles Kings 8, Ottawa Senators 6.

MOTOR RALLYING

PORTUGUESE RALLY (after three days): 1, F Delecour (Fr), Ford Escort, 4hr 15min 2sec; 2, M Blasion (It), Ford Escort, 36sec behind; 3, A Aghini (It), Lancia, 1min 53sec; 4, M Alen (Fin), Subaru Legacy, 3:47; 5, A Fiore (It), Lancia, 4.19. British placing: 7, C McRae, Subaru, 5:28.

RUGBY UNION

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England A 66, Spain 5 (at Richmond).
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Malvern 39, King Henry's, Coventry 0. Daily Mail Under-15 Cup: Quarter-final: King Edward's, Lichfield 5, DEGS Wakefield 17.

SNOOKER

DERBY: Wickes British Open: Quarter-final: J White (Eng) bt J Higgins (Scot), 5-3. Semi-finals: J Wattana (Thai) bt S Hendry (Scot), 6-4.

SQUASH

MADRID: Spanish Open: Second round (England unless stated): D Meddings (Eng) bt R Norman (NZ), 15-9, 16-17, 15-8, 15-10; P Whitlock (Eng) bt S Meads (Eng), 15-9, 15-8, 15-4; C Dalmar (Aus) bt J Bonetat (Fr), 13-15, 17-15, 15-4, 15-11. Quarter-finals: S Elopuro (Fin) bt P Marshall (Eng), 15-12, 12-15, 15-9, 15-7; Jansher Khan (Pak) bt R Eyles (Aus), 15-8, 15-13, 15-8.

TENNIS

COVENTRY: LTA Satellite Masters: Finals: Singles: F Cousin (Fr) bt A Foster (GB), 7-6, 4-6, 7-6. Doubles: M Bamaid (SA) and M Petchey (GB) bt N Brown and T Henman (GB), 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.
INDIAN WELLS, California: Champions Cup: Third round (US unless stated): M Chang bt M Washington, 6-7, 6-3, 6-1; P Korda (Cz) bt T Muster (Austria), 7-6, 6-4; M Rosset (Switz) bt B Gilbert, 6-4, 6-2; F Santoro (Fr) bt J Yzaga (Peru), 6-2, 6-3; W Ferreira (SA) bt R Reneberg, 6-3, 7-5; A Mancini (Arg) bt J Grabb, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5; A Volkov (Russ) bt P Sampras, 7-5, 6-4; J Courier bt T Martin, 7-5, 6-2.
DELRAY BEACH, Florida: Women's tournament: Third round (US unless stated): A Sánchez-Vicario (Sp) bt P Hy (Can), 6-1, 7-5; A Coetzer (SA) bt S Rehe, 7-5, ret; S Graf (Ger) bt I Majoli (Cro), 6-2, 6-2; L Davenport (US) bt G Sabatini (Arg), 7-6, 6-1; M J Fernandez bt S Cacchioni (It), 6-1, 6-3; Z Garrison-Jackson bt B Schultz (Holl), 7-5, 6-3; A Huber (Ger) bt R Fairbank-Nideffer (SA), 7-5, 6-2.

YACHTING

BRITISH STEEL CHALLENGE: Leading positions (at 15.00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): 1, Group 4 Securitas (M Golding), 2,088 miles; 2, Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden), 2,207; 3, Commercial Union (R Memweather), 2,216; 4, Hofbrau Lager (P Goss), 2,226, equal 5, Rhone-Poulenc (P Phillips), British Steel II (R Tudor), 2,242; equal 7, Coopers & Lybrand (V Cheny), Heath Insured (A Donovan), 2,274; 9, Interspray (P Jeffries), 2,327; 10, Pride of Teesside (I MacGillivray), 2,475
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The Calcutta Cup: a short trophy with a long history

THE original Calcutta club existed for only four years, from 1874 to 1878, but the elegant trophy, crafted in India from the silver rupees melted down when the club closed its bank account, remains as a reminder of another era (David Hands writes).

Though only 18 inches high it is distinctive, incorporating three handles in the shape of cobras and surmounted by an elephant.

The original cup leaves the bank vaults only for match days and will be seen by the public during the second half of the match today. It is also taken to the post-match banquet (from which it took an unscheduled departure in 1988, an episode which led to the disciplining of Dean Richards, of England, and John Jeffrey, of Scotland). These are key dates in the history of Calcutta Cup matches:

1879: The countries drew at Raeburn Place, a dropped goal to a goal, in the first contest. The following year, England won at Manchester by two goals and three tries to a goal to become the first cup-winners.

1893: The first of four consecutive wins by Scotland, a feat they have matched only once since (1970-72). The second of two matches in 1971 commemorated 100 years since the first match in the series, and the cup was not at stake.

1911: Scotland's first visit to Twickenham. England won 13-8. Two years later England began an seven-year undefeated run ended only in 1925 at the Scottish Rugby Union's new Murrayfield Stadium.

1926: Scotland's first success at Twickenham, by 17-9, witnessed by King George V. It was England's first championship defeat at the stadium.

1938: Scotland's second Twickenham success in what became known as Wilson Shaw's match. The stand-off half scored two tries in a 21-16 win.

1963: Richard Sharp sealed Scotland's fate with one of the most dramatic tries at Twickenham after three audacious dummies. England won 10-8.

1965: An otherwise barren game was illuminated by Andy Hancock's 90-metre run in injury-time, the Northampton wing earning England a 3-3 draw.

1971: Scotland's third win at Twickenham in England's centenary season. Peter Brown kicked the conversion which gave the Scots a 16-15 win. Scotland's only subsequent victory was in 1983.

☐ Of the 99 matches played for the cup, England have won 49 and Scotland 36. Overall, however, there have been 109 matches in the series, of which England have won 53 and Scotland 39.

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Scottish coach plans final twist in triple crown plot



Final thoughts: Ian McGeechan, the Scotland coach, introduced a lighter touch to his players' training session at Richmond yesterday as they prepare for the match against England at Twickenham this afternoon. McGeechan and his players gathered to plan the final phase of their campaign. A victory would bring them the triple crown, their first since 1990, when they also won the grand slam. The game against England, which will be the hundredth Calcutta Cup match, will be McGeechan's last as Scotland coach and he is hoping to end his domestic career on a triumphant note before coaching the British Isles. It is ten years since the Scots last tasted victory at Twickenham and an international triumph there has eluded McGeechan in six visits as both player and coach. Eight times in 82 years Scotland have arrived at Twickenham with the triple crown at stake and only once have they succeeded in capturing it there. McGeechan, who has guided Scotland for the past five years, has not needed to remind them that England will be smarting after their Cardiff defeat by Wales, which shattered their hopes of a third successive grand slam. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Disgraced Johnson banned for life

BY JOHN GOODBODY

BEN Johnson was yesterday suspended from competition for the second time in five years for taking drugs and seems certain to be banned for life from athletics.

The Canadian sprinter, who was stripped of his world record and 100 metres title at the 1988 Olympic Games, this time tested positive for a high level of testosterone, the male hormone, at a meeting in Montreal on January 17.

After reviewing the evidence at a meeting in Paris yesterday, a five-man drugs commission of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) suspended Johnson for life, pending an appeal to Athletics Canada, his national governing body.

Terrence O'Sullivan, Johnson's lawyer, said: "He stands by his earlier statement that he has taken no prohibited substances and has engaged in no improper practices." He said Johnson would be giving a press conference in Toronto tomorrow.

Johnson, 31, was tested three times in six days in Canada. Of the three samples, the test on January 17 was positive. The other two were negative. A positive for testosterone is declared only when its ratio to epitestosterone, another hormone, exceeds six-to-one. The ratio between the hormones is usually one-to-one in the male body.

Johnson's urine sample was analysed at a laboratory in Montreal, accredited by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and Dr Arne Ljungqvist, of Sweden, the chairman of the doping panel, said it was 10.3-to-one. "This is a clear-cut test of testosterone doping," he said. "We are very sad that this man is guilty."

Istvan Gyulai, secretary-general of the IAAF, said: "Johnson has a right to explain what happened but, if after hearing there is no new evidence, no new circumstances, then this doping offence is confirmed and he is ineligible for life."

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, who acclaimed Johnson's suspension in 1988 as being the beginning of the end for cheats, said yesterday: "We totally support the decision of the IAAF. I would not say we are happy, because we don't like to punish athletes, but we cannot accept cheating inside the Olympic movement. The IAAF were right to act so quickly."

Linford Christie, the 1991 Olympic 100 metres champion, declined to comment on the news but leading British officials were less reticent. Frank Dick, the director of coaching, said: "He has let down everyone in athletics: himself, and most of important of all, his fellow countrymen, who were prepared to give him a second chance."

Paul Dupre, president of Athletics Canada, said it was "a tragic embarrassment to the world amateur sport movement and to Canada".



Johnson: second ban

It was probably the recognition by Johnson that his earning power was diminishing that caused him to risk taking drugs for a second time. Last month, he had run 50 metres indoors in only 0.05 of a second outside the world record. The athletics world could not believe it; the cynics were right.

Johnson clearly believed the words of Charlie Francis, his former coach, who first started giving him drugs in the early 1980s. The saying of Francis was: "If you do not take it, you will not make it."

His partnership with Francis and Dr Jamie Astaphan took Johnson from being one of the fastest men in the world to the fastest human in history. They injected the sprinter with illicit substances, including human growth hormone, usually given to undernourished children, to help his explosive start and "pick-up".

In 1984, he became the first Canadian for 20 years to win a sprinting medal at the Olympic Games. Two years later, he took the Commonwealth title as Francis and Astaphan refined his weight-training programme, constant practice and the length of time necessary to rid his body of the banned substances before testing in competition.

Before he was caught in 1988, it was estimated that he had passed at least 20 drug tests. This included the 1987 world championships in Rome, when he defeated Carl Lewis over 100 metres in a world record 9.83sec.

He was finally caught at the 1988 Olympic Games when he was found positive for stanozolol, an anabolic steroid, after finishing first in the 100 metres in 9.79sec, ahead of Lewis and Christie.

Johnson was disqualified from the Games and also lost his gold medal, world record and probably £16 million in potential endorsements and fees. He was also given a two-year suspension, the then maximum for a first offence in athletics.

It was the Johnson case that largely persuaded the IAAF to increase the sentence for a first serious doping offence, like hormone drugs, to four years.

No room for sympathy, no place for cheats



DAVID MILLER
Chief Sports Correspondent

All those soft-hearted people who once sympathised with Ben Johnson and thought he had been used have now had their answer. Johnson was a cheat.

He calculatedly used drugs, leading up to the 1988 Olympic Games, for the physical advantage they would bring him on the track and the wealth they would bring off it. Now he has used them again. Both times he has lied that he was not doing so.

If there was the slightest possibility for commiseration the first time — that he had been exploited by Dr Jamie Astaphan, his medical adviser, or by Charlie Francis, his coach — there cannot be this time. Johnson has offended against every concept of sport, and now pays the price.

It can be said, with justification, that the introduction of professionalism and the massive projection of athletics over the past ten years have inevitably led to an increased temptation to cheat. Yet the provocation of goods in the shop window has never been a justification for stealing, however much iniquitous television advertising may continuously tell everybody they deserve a good life.

Thousands of professional sportsmen are able to play without cheating, most notably great golfers such as Nicklaus, Watson, Ballesteros, the World Cup football teams of Brazil or France, the majority of Test cricketers and World Series baseball players. There is no special rule for the likes of Johnson, any more than there can be for compulsive teenage joyriders whose apologists now tell us have a medical problem.

Lest anybody still has doubts, the time for liberalism in sports discipline is long gone. It is necessary to have deterrent punishments, as belatedly realised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation when introducing a four-year ban in 1991 and life suspension for a second offence. Other than in exceptional circumstances, there should be no second chances any more than there is for transgressors in the professions of law and medicine.

This is a battle which sport cannot afford to lose. Sport's credibility is far more threatened by drugs than by commercialism, even if we admit the latter encourages the former. But that need not necessarily be so.

We should remember that, almost without exception, the active representatives of sport on committees such as the International Olympic Committee's Athletes Commission persistently recommend a life ban for positive tests. Without this absolute and harsh conviction, the efforts of all genuine competitors become worthless, because all are permanently under suspicion.

The sooner blood-testing as an infallible means of eliminating cheats is introduced, the better. If Americans or others resent it, too bad. International sport must state its terms of participation, and thereafter it is up to competitors. Nobody is obliged to run in the Olympics or the world championships. But every instance of another Johnson is a blight not just on sport but on society. Educating children against drugs is no less important than punishing the guilty adults, but that is another matter.

Sullivan takes control

DAVID Sullivan, the joint-owner of the *Daily Sport* and *Sunday Sport* newspapers, yesterday took charge of Birmingham City, the first division's bottom club, when the receiver who has controlled the club for the past five months accepted a bid from Sullivan's company, Roldvale Ltd (Adrian Holloway writes).

Roldvale has agreed to pay in the region of £700,000 for the 84 per cent shareholding.

Karren Brady, Sport Newspapers' sales and marketing director, the club's new managing director, promised to provide £500,000 for new players as City attempt to avoid relegation.

Golf must heed its true place

Today, this column will set aside its wholly irrational prejudice against golf. Instead, I must proclaim my wholly rational support for the Occombe Farm Fighting Fund. This is an attempt to stop the entire countryside being transformed into a golf course.

But to the beginning. A developer acquired planning permission for an 18-hole golf course at Occombe Farm, in Devon. Part of this area happens to be an absolutely terrific wildlife area, and it is, therefore, a site of special scientific interest and, in theory, enjoys statutory protection.

Torbay borough council recently acquired 30 acres of land at the heart of the site, in a genuine attempt to protect the wildlife interest. But now — in a striking reversal of priorities — the council has granted a new planning permission to expand the golf course to 27 holes — four of them within the critical wildlife area.

Paul Gompertz, director of the Devon Wildife Trust, said: "We are not opposed to the development of the site, but key areas must be protected. If local politicians are not willing to recognise that life for future generations has as much claim on our resources as leisure for the present one, then the only hope lies with the people." The trust is raising local support and establishing the aforementioned fighting fund.

Sport — like everything else — has responsibilities beyond its own interests. Golf, by taking up so much space, has special responsibilities for the countryside.

It would be nice to see golfing development finding a rational position in this country — starting with Occombe Farm.

Father figure

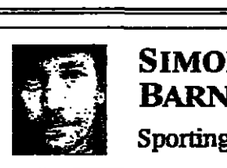
It is time to consider Fiorentina football club and the religious impulse.

A Franciscan by the name of Father Ugolino Vagnuzzi has taken the club to task with an open letter to the club. It is a masterpiece of Italianate pomposity. Really, we Brits, try as we might, cannot match the Italians in certain spheres.

"You are heavily paid to give the club and its fans those satisfactions to which they have a right," Padre Ugolino intones. "You earn more in a month than a workman does in three or four years, but the workman has to produce, or he risks the sack. The image of Florence is doubly connected with that of Fiorentina!"

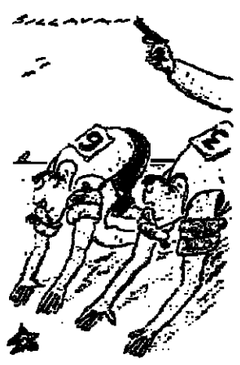
After all, I hear you ask, what has Florence to offer the world but football? "No one has the right to besmirch it! If you go on in this way, you will drag Forentina into the second division, a shame no Florentine could forgive!"

The padre announced that he would forsake his usual place in the crowd and stand with the hardcore fans. The ploy seems to have worked: Fiorentina scored a 93rd minute equaliser in their home match against Inter Milan last Sunday, and it was an own goal to boot.



SIMON BARNES
Sporting Diary

Yes: this column has more material on Fiorentina and the religious impulse. Monsignor Setti, parish priest, has, for the past 30 years, said mass for the Fiorentina players in their hotel on the Saturday preceding a home match. Now, and suddenly, this practice has ceased. Why? The monsignor has had no explanation from the club. His response has been a sonnet called A chi da noia la messa?; *or, "Who is browned off with the mass?"*



Sands of time

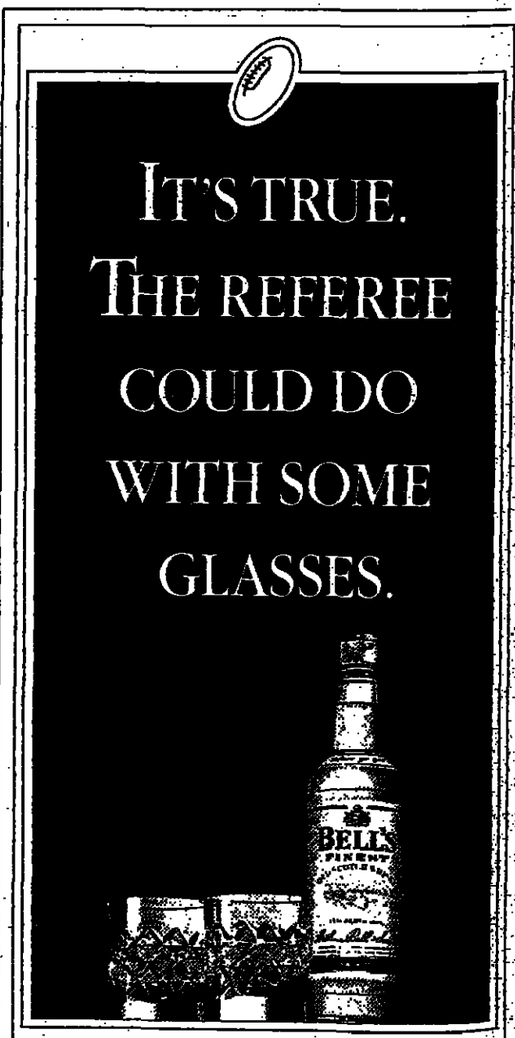
There are some things in life that possess so perfect a pointlessness that they scream to be done. One of these is an athletics meeting on the Goodwin Sands. Deal Strider club from east Kent plans to hold a mile race on May 6 on the treacherous sands — the anniversary of the four-minute mile. The club intends to take out 400 runners and supporters by hovercraft. The tides will permit a stay of one hour.

Rule breaker

Greetings and congratulations from this column to Helen Fejo-Frith, who has just won an Australian sporting award for her achievements as a coach of an Australian Rules football team — an unusual accomplishement in an aboriginal grandmother.

She coaches Barunga FC. Four years ago, her husband (incidentally, 15 years her junior) was coach but, like many of the players, he was prone to skipping training. So Fejo-Frith took over. She was already something of a community matriarch in this isolated spot and, at 46, has 15 grandchildren. "I know I have great strength," she said. "Sometimes I am a marriage counsellor, sometimes a referee." Her husband and three of her sons play in the side. Her youngest boy, 18, is captain.

Fejo-Frith is the only female coach in first-grade football. She offered to stand down at the beginning of the season but was told: "If you don't coach, we don't play."





WEEKEND BREAK

Rome's eternal rejuvenation

Page 2

HOTEL OFFER

Win a Relais & Châteaux break

Page 7



SPORTING LIFE

Jenny Seagrove is in the Swimathon

Page 10

FREE WINE TASTINGS TODAY

Page 5

SIMON WALKER



Teenage rocker **Caitlin Moran** (above right) takes the helm of a dinghy on the Solent and is blown away by her first taste of the briny

Having a swell time

Hi diddly dee,
The indoor life for me.
A packet of fags and bottle of gin,
A couple of vids and the chance to stay in
Hi diddly diddly diddly diddly diddly, etc
[fade into high-octane, heavy-metal guitar solo]

Before the phone call:

So yes, the term "couch potato" could have been invented for me, and me alone. Perhaps not *couch* potato — we don't have any sofas in our house. Beanbag potato, maybe; pouffe-cum-footstool potato — but none the less, the overwhelming impression of me and my life being distinctly short on rousing games of tennis and jolly yomps across Wolverhampton and the suburbs therein should, by now, be becoming apparent. I have a permanent cold and general lethargy, and I haven't broken into a sweat since a particularly hairy game of "Battling Tops" some time in the early 1980s. I don't know many things for sure in this life, but one of the things I do know is that I don't want to go sailing.

After the phone call:

Apparently I *do* want to go sailing, very much. All the pints and pints of kids' adventure book prints I drank down in my childhood, all that intravenous Arthur Ransome during my formative years have infected my blood with a taste for cleats and booms and people called "Titty" having a simply *smashing* time while being six inches away from drowning. All this aversion to exercise and the great out-there outdoors has just been an elaborate façade erected by my subconscious to make me weak and more susceptible to dying of consumption, which is the sort of thing promising young writers are supposed to die of all the time.

And so this knowledge broke and surfaced in the reservoir of silt and mud I call my brain, and so enlightened I cast off my shackles of slobbishness, and hied me down to the Victoria Sea School in Southampton to wear a very unflattering set of waterproofs and cough a lot into my coat sleeve.

The morning. Before the pub:

Oh dearie dear. I am ill, very very ill — my permanent cold has moved on to phase two: catarrh like porridge, and when I finally get to Southampton, direct descendants of the Ancient Mariner, with their faces creased from the slap of the salt spray and too many late-night poker sessions, wander past saying things like: "Rather you than me out there in this weather." It is *very* cold. It is *very* windy.

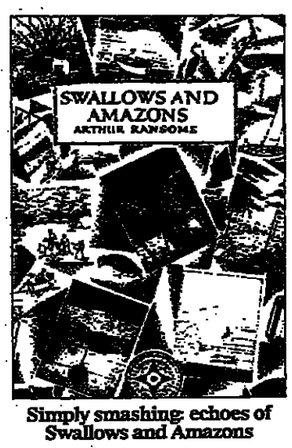
Kim is the instructor — he looked like he was born on a pile of coiled anchor ropes and scattered copies of *Yachting Weekly*, and was steering schooners through the international shipping channels before they'd fairly cut his umbilical cord. The phrase "salty young sea dog" just springs to mind, and lodges there like dried cornflakes on a breakfast bowl. I can't prise it out of my head. I just can't help myself: "So, salty young sea dog Kim; what's that sticky out bit at the back of the boat then? The rudder? And the big flappy bits up there? Sails? And if I stand up suddenly to get my fags out of my back pocket? I fall out? OK, sorted."

Tim, male model and wearer of white polo-neck jumpers, has come along to help out, ie, do all the things I'm supposed to do if I make a hash of them. He is the Twentysomething Mariner. A sea pup, maybe. So, Kim 'n' Tim, then. Tim 'n' Kim. Already I'm confused.

Kim drags out a blackboard and we run through basic safety procedures — how to avoid hypothermia, consideration for fellow crew members and other sea vessels, not drinking from the same cup as anyone who's got a cold sore, clunk click every trip . . . I get half the boat-part names right — boom and jib, port and starboard. Good old Arthur Ransome. I didn't lose my eyesight from reading by street lights and have to buy heart-stoppingly expensive contact lenses for nothing.

And so to the clothes. Well, they're certainly, um, *practical*. Waterproof dungarees and jacket and lifejacket and boots. Mmm, hipster sex city. I look like a malcontent waterproofed Christmas pudding balanced on top of some wellies. Keanu Reeves, if by chance you're reading this in your luxury penthouse hurv-pad in Hollywood, a) I usually look better than this, and b) you were emotionally barren and your hair was too short in *Bram Stoker's Dracula*.

Well, we wander on down to the



Simply smashing: echoes of Swallows and Amazons

boat and it's very, very small. How *did* all the Swallows and Amazons fit into one of these things, plus wedging their over-stuffed hampers, tents, hurricane lamps and the huge amounts of cash they must have needed to buy the boat in the first place? Anyway, we hoist the sails and slither into the oiled swell of The Big Water. Aaand . . .

And I promptly spend the next two hours being thoroughly miserable. I feel utterly out of my depth — I *hate* making mistakes in front of people, and it all seems utterly pointless (the reason we invented bridges was so people didn't have to mess about with ropes and keels) and my boots are making dubious squelchy noises. No, call me Missy Misery Misery Boots, but I want a big car and some road. Sorry.

The afternoon. After the pub:

So with a very strong tomato juice snuggled in me, I'm feeling warmer and positive and I've got a tentative Happy Caitlin smile on my face. Things have altered from my saying the photographer will have to get snaps of me sitting picturesquely on the jetty, pointing winsomely at some boats with other mad people in, to my quite wanting to have a go at sailing around the Isle of Wight before dusk. We wander back to the school, and I unlock my waterproofs and let myself in. Mmm, it almost feels good to hear the "whip whip" of Gortexed thigh against Gortexed thigh. Back to the boat, aaand . . .

And this is the most fun I've had since telling my sister you could overdose and die from eating too many Penguins. Crouched up tight in the fronty end of the boat (technical term: the fore) with the wind doing no doubt very stylish and photogenic things to my hair, I'm laughing my lifejacket off.

There's a great sense of instant result — a quick pull on the jib (jib sail — little baby cute sail at the front) ropes, push the tiller away from myself, and duck as the boom swings overhead and the boat starts heading back the way we came. We zip around the harbour, ripping up the surface of the river mouth into a parquet of foam trails and turbulence. I'm speeding on salt wind and the smell of Gortex. Perhaps because I don't drive, the idea of being able to go anywhere I please is *immensely* appealing.

People in bigger yachts watch our wee vessel careening about the harbour — unfortunately for my fellow crew members and all of us in the area, my sailing style is three parts breathless enthusiasm to one part skill. I'm very keen to pop over to Holland for the afternoon; I'm making plans to hoist the sails full up and enter myself in the next America's Cup. I'd be *very* good.

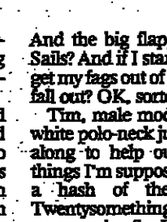
We tack from huge, hulking great tanker thingies to the buoy with the funny knobbly bit on the side, and from the jetty to a clump of seagulls bobbing around aimlessly, and all the time I'm making the exceedingly nautical sound of "Wheeee!". Kim is smiling happily. "You were a bit miserable this morning. I'm glad you've found out how great it all is."

Great? Lapsing into grunge speak for a minute, this is vert to the max, dude. The rockingest *ever*.

● *Caitlin Moran was a guest of Victoria Sailing School (0489 889089).*

● *1993 is the Royal Yachting Association Year Of Youth Sailing. For details telephone hotline 0703 629561, or visit the 1993 National Dinghy Show at Crystal Palace this weekend.*

Shoulders to cry on, heads to bite off



WEEKEND *voice*

MARY KILLEN

When is a friend not a friend? I have a telephonic relationship with a girl named Sarah, whose endless concern and capacity for listening to mine and others' tales of woe has made her a beacon for those of her friends undergoing personal difficulties. Yet sympathy must be a fairly compulsive emotion, because I have noticed that no matter how breezily you start the conversation, Sarah will be murmuring "How awful, poor you" within a minute of your communicating any good news that you might wish to share.

If, after a weekend, I said blandly that it was a "nice weekend", Sarah might not be satisfied. "Really nice . . . or only *quite* nice?" she would ask.

Often, I fell into the trap and dredged deeply to find something depressing that had happened. Once, having returned from a weekend of such Disneyland fabulousness that there was nothing bad to say, I found myself offering: "And now we're back there's nothing to eat except frozen mince."

sorry: that's so awful."

Sarah shares a flat with a gid who has not worked for six months. When she walks through the door in the evening, she finds Myrtle (all these names are false) sitting perfectly happily on a sofa and says: "How are your spirits? Low?"

Another of Sarah's friends is an out-of-work actor (if that is not a tautology). He makes daily telephonic contact with her to hear her ask: "Any news from your agent yet? Well, don't lose hope."

I recently began to suspect that I was being manipulated and that what lay at the root of Sarah's skill at drawing forth disappointing material was a pathological sense of competition.

This weekend my husband and I are going to stay with a former colleague of mine who is also a "best friend". The prospect is filling me with dread: the reason being that weekends with Cyril are a minefield for personality clashes between him and my husband, one to have the better idea of what to do with the two days.

Rather than walking in the flat, unassuming countryside of rural Essex, which would be my husband's choice, Cyril insists on ambitious outings, involving many vehicles, to places to which none of us knows the way and which none of us has been allowed to telephone to ask if there is public access, or even if they are open. "Just get in the car," Cyril snaps. "If we don't get off there'll be no point."

Complicated walks with two cars and toddlers, involving doubling back and meeting in pubs, retrac- [illegible] until we have got to the dread hour of 2.45pm, and have missed the pub lunch, is another of Cyril's specialities. Cyril confuses walking with exercise and turns the whole thing into a punishment, with one group dawdling and the others yomping in Ranulph Fiennes style.

Barbecues will be out of the question at this time of year, but last summer they were the subject of a heated and pointless argument between my husband and his host. "Why does the barbecue have to be so far away from the house?" Nearly 300 yards, so that fetching the celery salt from the kitchen was a tiresome business.

Rivalry over cooking skills is another flashpoint. Once, in Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast, Cyril said it would be a good idea to have grilled sardines for lunch: "Fresh sardines from the fishmonger."

"You're making a hideous mistake," my husband said pompously. "Allow me to pass on my [illegible] ble." But Cyril was adamant, and sure enough the fish *were* greasy and tasteless and the backbone *was* unpleasant to deal with.

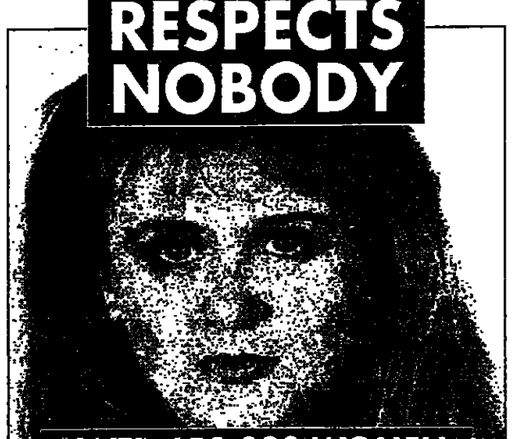
Breakfast is another catalyst, my husband declaiming: "Never ever add milk to scrambled eggs."

The last time we spent the weekend with Cyril, Sarah rang him up and asked him how it went. He replied: "Well, we got through it."

My husband has one friend, from his schooldays, with whom competition in later life has become a decathlon. Even a visit to an Indian restaurant turned into a competition: a trial of strength between my husband and Martin to see which of them could endure the hottest curry. Inevitably, Martin always wins because he orders "lobster phall", a curry too far for my husband, whose limit (for medical reasons) is a Vindaloo.

Friendship is often about identifying "equals", and then competing with them. Still, we love Sarah, Cyril and Martin. We are great friends and are considering booking into sheltered accommodation together in our declining years.

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On a cycle of change

Alan Copps takes to two wheels to explore the rejuvenated attractions of Rome

The image of Rome may be eternal, but its face changes all the time. For every wrinkle in one feature, there are signs of rejuvenation in another, for every blemish a spot of make-up. For example, a few years ago the idea of cycling round Rome was virtually unthinkable for a native, let alone a visitor. In theory, the centre was a traffic-free zone; in fact, even the narrowest streets seethed with anarchic vehicles through a fog of exhaust fumes.

Now a bicycle-hire business thrives outside the Metro at the foot of the Spanish Steps, and at the top of the steps, one of the city's best hotels, the Hassler, famously careful of its guests, is happy to provide them with bicycles free of charge.

There are still buses, taxis and quite a few authorised vehicles to contend with on the main roads, yet things have changed: turn into a side street, brave the cobbles, and on two wheels you can explore at leisure.

A Roman friend offered a compellingly simple, if not wholly convincing, explanation for this new order: "A few years ago we had hundreds of policemen fighting terrorism. Now we have no terrorists, and the police spend their time imposing the traffic rules."

Nothing is quite so straightforward in Italy, but wherever the explanation lies, you can cover a lot more ground on a bike than on foot, yet still travel slowly enough to take it all in. In a city with as much to see as Rome, that's an advantage.

Away from the great monuments there are many private treasures. A peep through an archway might reveal a courtyard with a fountain, a battered statue or some surprising burst of vegetation: palms, geraniums, even heavily laden orange trees flourish in the most unpromising patch. Each street and square has its own little feature: fountains in the shape of tortoises, sea-horses and theatrical masks; gateways decorated with pineapples, baronial shields and cats; an elephant statue with an obelisk on its back. Round every corner ancient pillars and arches are revealed, incorporated into apartment blocks. Some are beautifully restored, some romantic under a patina of age and some grotesquely corroded and decayed.

Whether a city that is eternal may show its age is a question that might have occupied some ancient philosopher for many a teasing hour under a pine on the Palatine. The changes visible after an absence of five years are not restricted to fluctuations of traffic.

First sight of the recently cleaned Trevi fountain, preferably at dusk with the lights playing through the water, is riveting. What was for long a murky pool surrounded by vague, looming figures is now revealed as a feast of statuary, subtly emerging from a sculpted screen of rock, which itself appears to grow from the palace behind.


ROD SHONE

Stepping out: Piazza di Spagna and the Spanish Steps, with the Keats and Shelley museum on the right, and the Hassler hotel next to Trinità dei Monti at the top

Another revelation is the restored exterior of the Keats and Shelley museum, in the house beside the Spanish Steps where the former died. Its walls, once sadly flaking, have been finished in a striking pink wash, said by its curator, Dr Bathsheba Abse, to be their original colour. Startlingly different from the predominant ochre, it is now known to the Romans as the "strawberry house", a special contrast with the livid "banana house" that stands above it, next to Valentino's fashion studio at the top of the steps.

The Hassler stands on the same summit, and regards itself as the summit of hospitality in a city that arguably has a longer history of tourism than any other. There is no more luxurious place to recover from the exertions of a cycle ride. Its rooms are lushly frescoed and its terrace restaurant must be one of the most pleasurable places to eat anywhere, with astounding views over the city's jumbled rooftops: a feast of domes, campaniles and ancient arches, interspersed with garden terraces, washing lines and television aerials, the whole backed by the silhouetted pines and cypresses of the distant hills.

The food and service match the view. One of the joys of Italy is to tell the seasons by the changing abundance of fruit and vegetables. Artichokes, fennel, asparagus, cherries, strawberries, peaches and persimmons all have their seasons. Now is the turn of the artichoke, which is everywhere: as an antipasto, as a main course *alla romana* and even in a delicious pasta sauce created by the Hassler's chef.

We found more artichokes one evening at El Toula, a restaurant straight out of *La Dolce Vita*, where an American actor, in town to promote his latest film, dined at the next table, and a cardinal in full rig dined in the next room.

Parts of the city bear a remarkable air of prosperity, and some truly staggering prices. But life in Rome proceeds along a series of archaeological layers. You don't have to venture to some far-flung suburb to discover something more raw and authentic. (If you do, there's a strong chance that the local *trattoria* will have turned into a Chinese restaurant.) Around the Campo dei Fiori (it means field of flowers, and hosts the liveliest food market within the city walls), there are places where you can still eat tripe or brains if you choose and delicious *saltimbocca* if you don't, pour rough *Castelli* wine from the flask and be entertained, as we were one night in the Trattoria Romanesca by a wandering singer who couldn't hit a note, but whose discordant charm compelled every table to join in, swelling volume, purse and good humour alike.

Round the corner from there, at the romantically named but very basic Albergo della Lunetta (hotel of the small moon), you can have a room but nothing else for one tenth of the cost at the Hassler. The variety in between is infinite.

The same range can be found in shopping. If the designer palaces of the Via Veneto or Via Frattina prove too expensive or too intimidating, then cross the river to the Via Cola di Rienzo, a mile-long stretch through a turn-of-the-century quarter which ends beside the Vatican and along which many of the same goods can be found at cheaper prices. If even that's too much, then ask for directions to the Sunday morning flea market at Porta Portese, where you can bargain for fakes at a fraction of the price of the originals.

A weekend is a very short time in the span of an eternal city, and it responds badly to being rushed. A lot of visitors, trying to race through some optimistic guide book's comprehensive itinerary, find the place, at first taste, hostile or aggressive. Rome is a southern city, and taken at its own relaxed pace, is only too ready to be enjoyed. And if you miss that visit to the Coliseum, well, there's always another time.

When in Rome — what to eat, where to stay, what to see and how to get there

● **How to get there:** Scheduled flights by British Airways and Alitalia. All kinds of flight-only deals by charter airlines and packages by all major operators. Fiumicino airport is a long and expensive taxi ride from the centre so if your package doesn't include transport take the Metro, even though it involves a change, or a bus into town.

● **Hotels:** A vast number at every level, but try to avoid those too close to the main station. The district is noisy and inconveniently far from the main sights for a weekend trip. This is a personal selection of the luxury, medium and basic.

The Hassler, Trinità dei Monti, is in a wonderful position, family-owned, no package tours, excellent service, food and prices to match, but free bicycles. Even if you can't afford to stay there, treat yourself to Sunday brunch just to experience the rooftop restaurant. A suite for two costs 600,000 lire a night (about £130 per person).

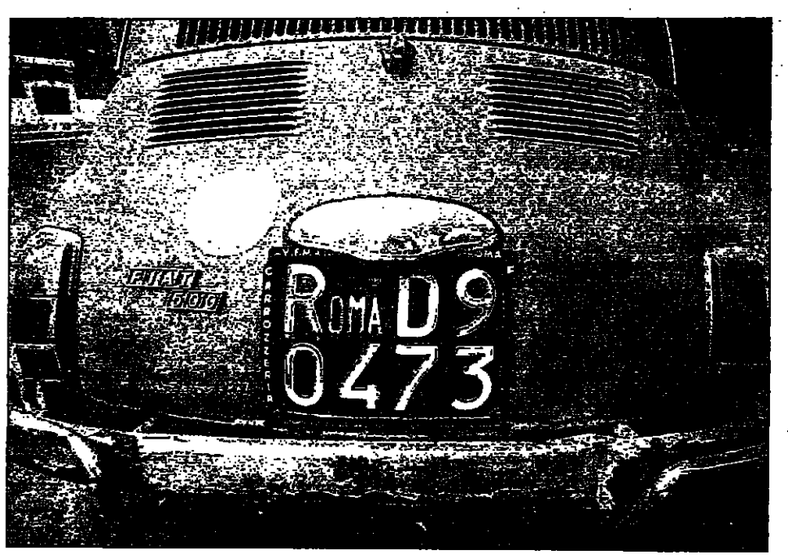
The Cardinal, Via Giulia. Atmospheric place in the medieval part of the city. Importantly, easy to find and close to the Vatican. A double room costs 219,000 lire a night (about £50 per person).

Albergo della Lunetta, close to Campo dei Fiori. Very central and very basic. A double room without bath and no breakfast costs 60,000 lire a night (about £13 per person).

● **Restaurants:** After generations of being rather insular about their food, the Romans have, unfortunately for the visitor, developed a taste for foreign fare. It's disappointing to find many a favourite trattoria converted to Chinese food, but a good choice remains. Again, this is a personal selection to match the levels of the hotels:

El Toula, Via Borghese. First class, originally Venetian but very adventurous. Three courses with wine 150,000 lire per head (about £68).

La Tana dei Noantri, near Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere. Across the river in a picturesque quarter peppered with restaurants, piazzetta beside the church in summer. Full range of Roman specialities. 50,000-70,000 lire per head with wine (about £22-£30).



Trattoria Romanesca, Campo dei Fiori. Tiny, crowded, paper tablecloths, wine by the carafe, lively chatter and loads of buskers. Plain but wholesome peasant food. About 25,000 lire per head (about £11).

● **Bicycles** can be hired opposite the Metro in Piazza di Spagna: 5,000 lire (£2.20) an hour or 15,000 (£6.60) a day. Choose a model with wide tyres and sprung saddle to cushion you on the cobbles. Otherwise the bus is the best form of transport at 800 lire for any journey, no matter how long. Remember you must have a ticket before boarding. Buy a sheaf from any tobacconist.

● **Snacks:** If you want a snack rather than a full meal, there are excellent shops all around the city where you can buy a slice of pizza to eat on the hoof. One of the best is just a few yards from the Trevi fountain. If you want to sit down to pizza, try Ivo's in Trastevere, a lively place much frequented by students, where the waiters are renowned for their ability to carry 12 or more plates at a time. For something really different seek out the Peroni Birreria in the Piazza of the Twelve Apostles — the Italian version of a German *Keller* with good light and dark draught beer. If you get homesick try finding the McDonald's at the foot of the Spanish Steps. So vehement were protests against it that it must rate as the chain's most discreet outlet.

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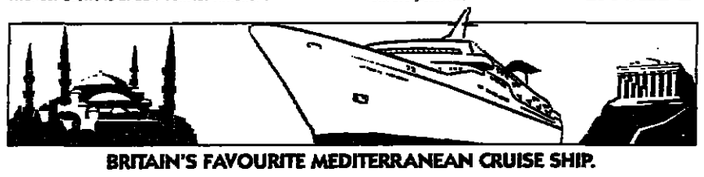
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SAMARKAND to BUKHARA

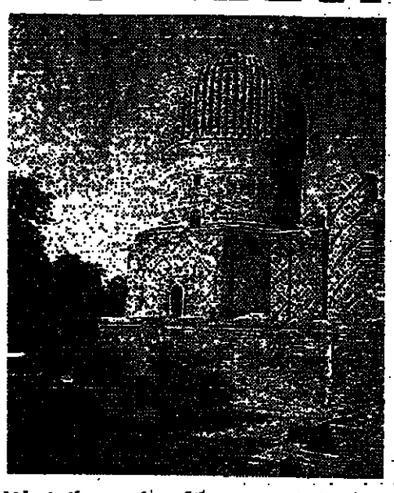
Visiting the cities of Central Asia has never been easy involving, as it did, a tiresome flight via Moscow in both directions and normally forming part of a much larger itinerary. This autumn, however, we are planning the first ever short series of flights from London Gatwick directly into Tashkent, thus making possible a short but comprehensive exploration of Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkand. Our journey commences with two nights in Tashkent, followed by two nights in Bukhara and three nights in Samarkand.

The legacy of Tamburlaine is manifest in the magnificent buildings and architecture of Samarkand and the glorious Timurid mosques and shrines of Bukhara. Samarkand was one of the great medieval trading centres, a place where the caravan highways - of the Silk Road from China, the trails to India and to Marco Polo's Europe - all met and crossed. It was therefore no wonder that Tamburlaine, and later his grandson Ulug Beg, invested in his capital to make it worthy of its important position. The Registan, the main square, is the centrepiece surrounded on three sides by buildings whose pillars, arches and domes explore perfection in colour and shape.

Bukhara's great days began in the 9th and 10th centuries when it was the seat of the Samanid dynasty, but even when they were deposed, and Samarkand prospered, the city remained an important trading centre on the Silk Road. The old town is a treaure trove of old and beautiful buildings dotted around a warren of jumbled streets with the Ark, a citadel with 18-metre walls, dominating the main square.

Itinerary in Brief

Day 1 Depart Gatwick on our direct flight to Tashkent. Day 2 The whole day is spent exploring the many sights. Days 3 and 4 Fly to Bukhara. Days 5 and 6 Fly to Samarkand for 3 nights. Day 8 Fly back to Tashkent for the flight to Gatwick.



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A thundering good name for the 'effer

There is an animal on this farm that has been here for the best part of 18 months, but has yet to be mentioned in this column. It is not that we are ashamed of her or wish to conceal her existence: it is simply that we have not been able to think of what to call her. She is a calf: a Red Poll heifer calf, who is maturing well. We have high hopes of her blossoming into a good-looking cow.

So far she has simply been "the 'effer" and so, up till now, we have said how well the 'effer looks, or that it is time to move the 'effer, or the 'effer has escaped again. I freely admit that in moments of acute stress, I have even heard her referred to as the "effing 'effer".

But this must change, for we now have two other heifers on the farm and shall soon find ourselves in the ridiculous situation where I ask the boy to move the 'effer, he asks which one, and as they are all as uniformly coloured as peas in a pod, I shall have to describe them by their individual characteristics.

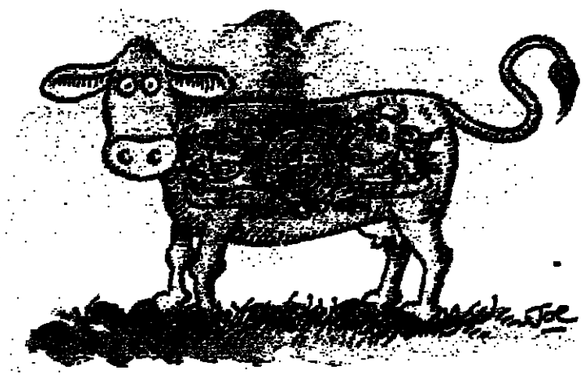


For example, the smallest heifer has huge round eyes and velvety ears and could be well described as "the one from the Disney film". The other is a little long in the leg and might be nicknamed "Lanky". But these things lie in the eye of the beholder and would make for confusion.

I have been putting off the heifer's christening because these things are never quite as simple as they appear. In my ignorance, I fondly imagined that I could simply turn to any *Child's Book of the Farm* written in the 1950s and borrow names from that: we would then end up with Blossom, Buttercup and Daisy. But I had forgotten that our cattle are pure-born and pedigree and certain rules apply.

To start with, each name must carry a prefix which is the name of the herd from which they come: for example, the cow called Ford Escort would come from the Ford herd, and Escort would be her name. The usual prefix is the name of the farm or nearest village. But in our case neither name is uncommon, and both have been bagged by somebody else. I am having to start from scratch.

As any marketing man will tell you, the name is everything these days. How could you advertise for sale a mighty bull called Titan if you had chosen Dainty to be your prefix? Dainty Titan conjures up balletic images, but hardly ones likely to command a decent price among buyers in search of hefty animals. But it would be equally foolish to establish the Rambo herd and expect a poor cow to sell as a quiet milker while burdened with the name Rambo Blossom.



Looking through the *Herd Book of 1933* for inspiration, I notice that things were even more complicated then. Not only did they have names and prefixes, they had tribal names as well. These were allocated to animals of the same descent, and the names are a delight. Here we find Handsome, Brisk and Fill-Pail. My eye fell on Cheerful as an appealing prefix, but anyone who knows this farm will soon realise that to name our cattle the Cheerful Herd would be stretching it a little.

No, we must have a name with authority, history and a sense of dignity. It came to me in a flash.

In exchange for these weekly dispatches, the editor of this newspaper is kind enough to forward me the occasional guinea. So I have decided to name the entire herd after this newspaper. Why not? They are both of noble descent, one representing the backbone of British journalism, the other the backbone of traditional farming. It would be a salute to both of them. Moreoever, when the grass is rich and their rumens are working overtime, the cows do their share of thundering, so there's another link.

But the 'effer needs an individual name as well, and we have decided on Empress. Em - Press, get it? We shall treat her with all respect due to an animal that bears the proud name Times Empress. *Noblesse oblige*, of course, and I expect her to undertake a full range of duties. I have mentioned to her that she may expect the occasional invitation to present *What the Papers Say*, or judge the annual Press Awards. She may even, in time, be asked to serve on the Press Complaints Commission. On the other hand, if she gets above herself and starts misbehaving, I have warned her that she could end up doing duty on the staff canteen menu.

Anyway, I am dropping a line to the editor telling him of my decision. Incidentally, Wednesday is the day I am suggesting he takes his turn at the mucking-out.

Jessica Gorst-Williams discovers that the Andean llama makes an excellent walking companion, if you can keep it out of the pub

Where to let llamas do the legwork

Anyone who has huffed and puffed their way uphill and down dale, swathed in hiking gear and backpacked with vacuum flasks and snack boxes, will welcome llama trekking as a gift from the gods, which in a way it is. It was the Incas who first trained llamas as pack animals many centuries ago. Now trekkers in Britain are disovering the advantages, and disadvantages, of letting a llama take the strain out of a walk.

There are about 1,200 llamas in Britain. Walking out with one is a growing leisure pursuit. You become a member of an organised group, pay a llama hire fee, a packed lunch is provided and duly transported, along with any other gear, by the beast.

If nothing else, it is a novel way to meet people. The llama is likely to prove a head-turner to passers-by, and a heart-winner. Jenny Spooner, of Sadlers' Farm, Ashington, West Sussex, takes people over the South Downs with hers, making five-mile circular walks in Houghton Forest, around Devil's Dyke or Chanctonbury Ring. With a break for lunch these take about five hours.

At the other end of Britain, 46 miles south of John o'Groat's, Mary Gought, of Kings Park Llama Farm, Berriedale, combines her B&B business with llama treks around Dunbeath Strath and to the foot of Scaraben.

Llama trekking in Britain has really taken off in the past three years. In 1990 a pioneering party took to the Scottish border hills laden with sandwiches and made a 1,400ft ascent — a midge-sized bite compared with the llamas' natural habitat in the Andes, where peaks reach more than 22,000ft. The descent through thick bracken and tangled undergrowth was by a rather more challenging route, dictated by the llamas.

Far from being discouraged, some of the group looked to dizzier heights, with a more ambitious lunch to match. By May last year, a sponsored group with five llamas was perched on the top of Ben Nevis savouring smoked salmon, steak and trifle, and the kudos of having raised £9,000 for charity.

Llama trekking has also raised some controversy. Might the llamas cause soil erosion on mountain paths? "Hikers are more likely to do that with studded boots," says Pam Walker, of the British Camelids Association. "Llamas have nothing to erode the earth with: their feet are just two toes and a big soft pad." Might they scare cattle by their habit of spitting? Disturb people with their rowdy sex life? Or eat a farmer's crops?



TED BATH

Beasts of burden: Fiona Davis with her father, Dick Chandler, and her husband Phil take their llamas for a healthy stroll, with the animals carrying the humans' picnic

The latter touched a sore point. The llamas' eating habits have been known to cause havoc. One llama named Yum Yum, who had featured on T-shirts, made the fatal decision to sample some barbed wire. Then there is Merlin, a llama who spends his time propping up the bar of a pub in Winterbourne, near Bristol, nibbling the crudités with his owners, Dick and Norma Chandler, their daughter Fiona and son-in-law Phil Davis.

> Handlers at llamakhanas have to clamber through hoops and over jumps. Technically the handlers are leading, but often they are being towed

"They are so gentle and intelligent," says Peter Knowles-Brown, chairman of the British Camelids Association, who led the trek up Ben Nevis. "When I retired, I intended to lead a man and a dog sort of life, hill farming with sheep, but I found myself with llamas instead." That was ten years ago. He and his wife, Anne, started with two llamas and now have 27, all descendants from that first pair.

Llamas are resilient, not much prone to disease and well able to cope with the vagaries of the British climate. In winter, they are happy to sleep out all night, getting covered in frost. "After all," says Candia Midworth, who keeps 19 llamas on 30 acres, "temperatures can plummet in the Andes. Their coats are so dense they act as insulators against hot and cold", like a thatch. Many llamas are bred for their fleece, which is soft long-lasting and easy to spin.

When the trekking showed up the ease with which llamas were able to negotiate kissing gates, stiles, and bridges, another idea was born: llamakhanas. These provide a useful gathering point to sell wool products, enable llamas and their owners to socialise, and give the public some fun as well. Several dates are already pencilled in for this year and a rigorous training programme has started, with handlers and llamas rehearsing by jumping over kitchen chairs in fields up and down the country.

There is one big problem: unlike horses, it is a rare llama that will keep a bit in its mouth — a far cry from the 1930s, when photographs of keepers on Sir Anthony Wingfield's estate at Ampthill, Bedfordshire, show several llamas being ridden with a proper bridle. This must have been something of a training feat.

Handlers at llamakhanas have to clamber through hoops, across obstacles and over jumps with the llamas. Technically the handlers are leading, but often they are being towed.

"We know", says Mr Chandler, who owns 32 of the animals, "that llamas can jump 5ft fences, but most handlers only make 2ft."

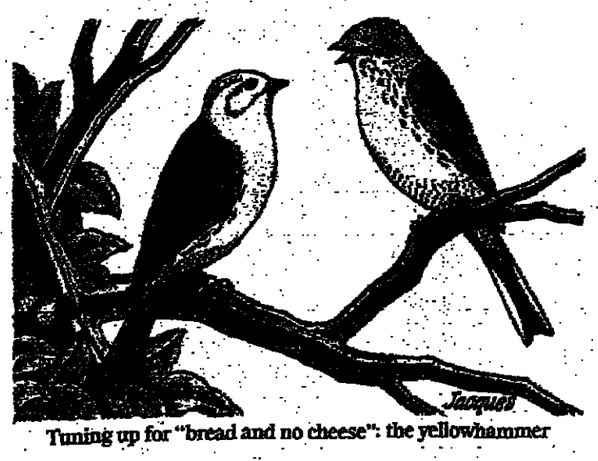
In this first-past-the-post contest, the factor that determines who wins the rosette and small cash prize is the agility of the handler. If the arrival is diluted a little by this, the journey is where llamas definitely have the edge on horses. The palaver and expense of horse-boxes can be dispensed with as llamas will travel quite happily in the back of a car. "As long", Mr Chandler says, "as there is something for them to walk up. If they have to jump in, they may hit their heads. Then they'll never go in again."

● *For further information, write to Mrs Pam Walker, British Camelids Association, Maplehurst Farm, Maplehurst, near Horsham, West Sussex RH13 6RB, enclosing SAE.*

Feather report

Battle cries across the country

AS THE temperature goes up, wrens go up, too. By which I mean that as spring advances they leave the undergrowth and start singing higher in the bushes and trees. They are announcing as vigorously as they can that they will have no intruding wrens in their territory, and from their new song-posts the message rings out loud and clear. This is the best time of year to get a good view of them.



Tuning up for "bread and no cheese": the yellowhammer

The only other British bird as small as a wren, the goldcrest, is also starting to sing. It lives in firs and yews, where its neat nest will be swinging under the dark needles in a month or so. Its song is like the murmur of a spinning-wheel, and gets steadily louder. At the climax there is a sound like a small explosion. Then the singer begins again.

It does not usually launch its song from a regular perch, sitting there and doing nothing else. It feeds all the time, searching the needles for insects from every angle, hovering and hanging upside down to complete the job, and singing as it goes.

Goldcrests are often very tame, and you can see the fine shades of olive on their bodies, and the gold crown lying between two black stripes. When they are excited they orange feathers down the middle of the crest.

Another bird that is coming into song has a yellow head, though in this case it is sulphur yellow, and covers the whole head and throat. This is the yellowhammer, or yellow bunting. It likes to sing conspicuously in a hedgerow tree, and will eventually nest low down in the hedge.

Its song is traditionally transcribed as "a little bit of bread and no cheese". That is all right for identifying it as long as you remember that all the first words sound exactly the same, being a rapid series of clinking notes, and the "cheese" is a long, wheezing note at the end. A singing bird near it, then flit away along the other side of the hedge. You may get a view of its rich, rufous lower back.

In the woods, pheasants are calling. You can hear the husky trumpet-call from far away, and can sometimes see one a long way off across a field, standing in front of the hazel trees at the edge of a wood. It presses its long, sweeping tail against the ground, lifts its head, flaps its wings lightly once or twice, crows out, then flaps its wings energetically again.

Displays like this reinforce the threat to rivals. Moorhens are beginning to fight now on ponds and rivers, but often they avoid actual combat by but the second bird twists round with a cocked tail, flicking it and showing the white underside. After that the second bird may retreat, but the first bird's attack is also slowed down.

Coots dispense with formality and just fight. If one coot thinks another is in its territory, it starts making sharp metallic sounds, stretches its head out in front of it on the water, swims fast at the intruder, and finally takes wing and flies at it. The other bird usually turns tail and they skitter wildly across the water, then settle again with renewed clinking calls. But sometimes the invader will not retreat, and then they fight furiously. The weaker bird may escape by diving; nevertheless, many coots are killed in these spring battles, a rare occurrence in any other British bird species.

If they do display, they try to cock their tails like the moorhens, which are close relatives — but they have so little tail to cock they look quite absurd.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — lapwings on the move. Twitchers — rustic bunting. Beddington, London; American wigeon. Martin Mere, Lancs; snowy owl, Wick, Highlands. Details from Birdline, 0898 700222. Calls cost 36p per*

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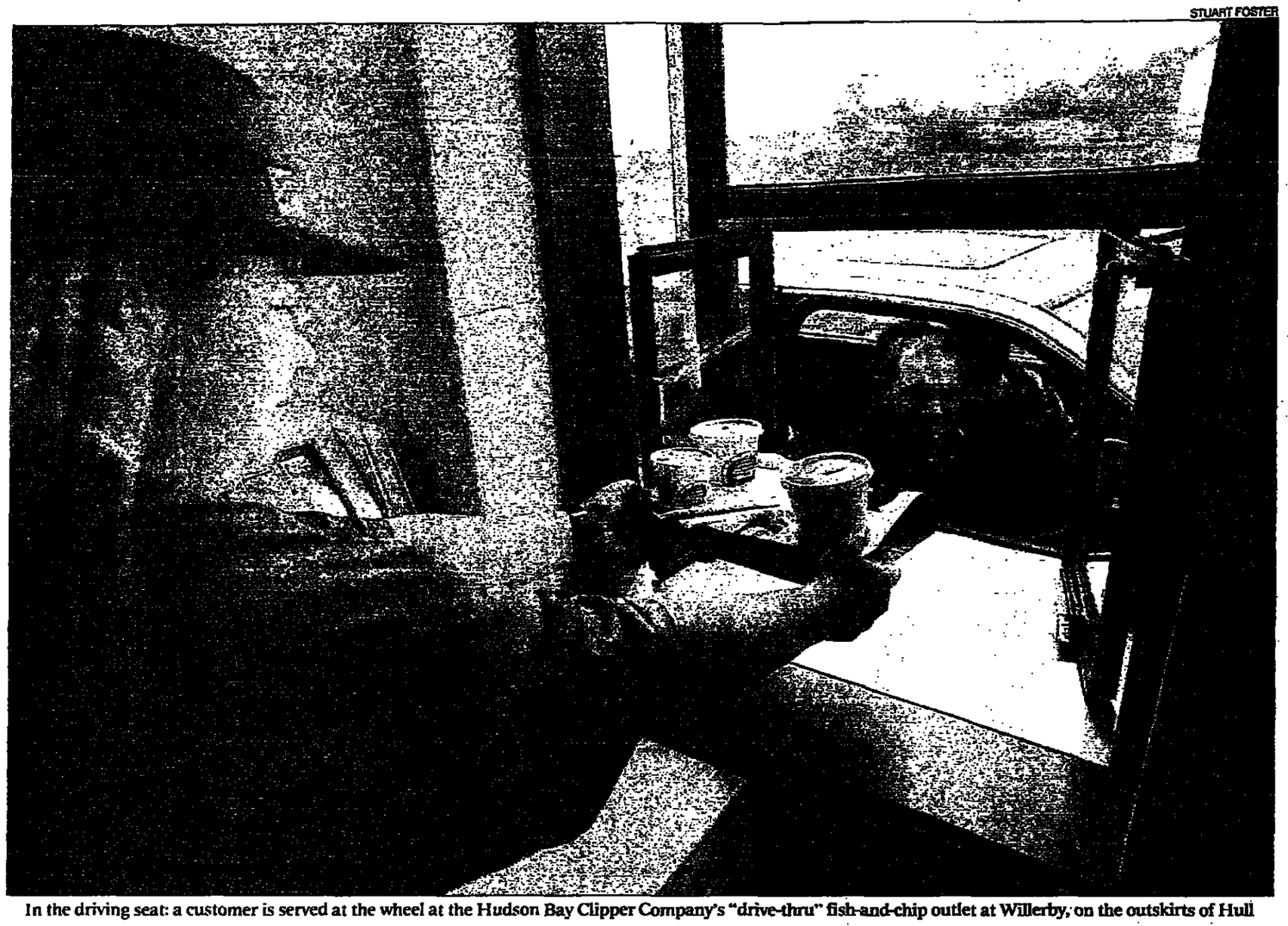
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NATIONAL BREAKDOWN

Drive in to a far, far batter thing

Helen Pickles reports on a new approach to fish and chips, the nation's favourite take-away food

STUART FOSTER



In the driving seat: a customer is served at the wheel at the Hudson Bay Clipper Company's "drive-thru" fish-and-chip outlet at Willerby, on the outskirts of Hull

It takes a brave man to meddle with Britain's fish and chips. *Jonathan Hick* spent three years in research before making a move and still made mistakes. "We felt we could develop the market purely on the fast-food approach but we've learnt it's a very emotive subject. Tradition is ingrained."

Last April, Britain's first "drive-thru" fish and chip restaurant opened at Willerby on the outskirts of Hull. Called The Hudson Bay Clipper Company, it offers "Fish and Fries" in a bright, clean, Canadian-themed diner, or in chunky boxes through your car window. "Drive-thru has to be the way forward for Britain's fish and chip take-aways," says Mr Hick, company marketing director, "otherwise the market will die out. But it's got to become a sit-down meal as well, one that people make an everyday experience, not just a special treat. It's one of the few mass markets that nobody has pioneered."

Although fish and chips is still Britain's favourite hot take-away (with 51 per cent of the population eating it once a month or more), burgers and pizzas are catching up (19 per cent and 11 per cent respectively). According to the Sea Fish Industry Authority, the number of fish-and-chip outlets has declined since 1935 from more than 30,000 to 9,500 today.

Younger people and families switched to McDonald's and Pizza Hut because they were bright and fun. Fish and chips was not adapting to the car-based, leisure-orientated, design-conscious consumer of the 1980s, who expected convenience, quality and entertainment.

Why nobody had seen this glaring oversight puzzles Mr Hick. "Possibly it's the lack of chains that makes it difficult to break into the market. Maybe it's the mystique of cooking fish and chips. People are frightened to invest in case they get it wrong. Our set-up cost £1.25 million, which is a lot to risk. Perhaps only those outside the industry are prepared to give it a go," he says.

Mr Hick is an advertising man, who runs an agency in Doncaster. He and his three partners chose Hull for the pilot venture because the area's fish-and-chip consumption is 50 per cent higher than average. They wanted a theme that emphasised the healthy quality of fish but that also had a touch of pizzazz and glamour.

"Initially we were thinking of a Scandinavian theme but that has boring connotations. We didn't want a US theme because of the other fast-food chains. Canada was the obvious choice: it's transatlantic, so it sounds exciting, and it gives the impression that there are hundreds already, so people immediately trust us. Moreover, all those lakes, mountains and forests imply healthy food," he says.

Where they went wrong was in "transatlanticising" the food. When offered the French Canadian chip (stringy) or the Winnipeg Wedge (chunky and unpeeled), people grew distressed and asked for the ordinary ones. The lack of bread and butter caused consternation. (Both omissions have now been rectified.) Although lager and wine are on the menu, 75 per cent still drink tea.

Mr Hick's biggest folly was to use "disposables" in the diner. "We stuck it out for three weeks but were forced to introduce plates and metal knives and forks. Our business doubled," he says with a wry smile.

However, he offers no apology for serving the take-away in boxes. "The worst thing you can do is wrap battered fish in paper; it sweats. Ten minutes later all the batter comes away from the fish. A box lets it breathe."

The fish, skinless and boneless, arrives daily in portion-controlled fillets, from a 4-5oz "regular" to a waistline-busting 12-14oz "Winnipeg Whale". It is cooked in the time-honoured manner — dipped in a "special recipe" batter mix then deep fried at high temperature. The only breaks with tradition are the computer-controlled range, the use of vegetable oil for frying (Yorkshire chip shops swear by beef dripping), and that the fish is cooked to order. Any fish that lies on the warming shelves for longer than five minutes is thrown away.

Being a marketing man, however, Mr Hick cannot resist novelty. Mushy peas have been remoulded into a pea fritter, cod fillet rolled into a hot dog and deep-fried sweetcorn offered to vegetarians. He is wearing down resistance to the chunky cut fish. "It is the Yorkie bar of fish — a beautiful thick loin; but because it looks smaller, people are suspicious. Once they try it, they like it."

So far, only a quarter of the business is "drive-thru", which Mr Hick feels is as much to do with location (on an out-of-town retail park) as the fear of novelty. He hopes to overcome the latter with "signage that talks to you, makes you smile". For instance, the notice beside a microphone into which you call your order reads, "Don't be afraid of this contraption, it is shy too."

A minibus-load of schoolchildren are tickled pink at the innovation, and even more delighted to discover that the chips cost no more (50p) than at their local.

Inside, an older couple, Peggy Owen and Arthur Fowler from nearby Skidby, are on their fourth visit. "It costs me damn near as much at a take-away and then you've got all the sorting out to do at home," says Mr Fowler, tucking into a waitress-served plate of regular fish and chips for £2.49. "Here, you can have a drink, sit in comfort and avoid washing up. If the quality was poor we wouldn't come. And we certainly wouldn't eat out of cardboard."

Mr Hick is now looking to city-centre and residential sites or retail parks closer to centres of population, with an option on franchising. "In ten years' time there will still be the Harry Ramsdens, for nostalgic reasons, and the corner chippies, for convenience. But there will be fewer of them," he says.

"It is people like ourselves who are developing the mass market and raising standards. It may sound dramatic, but I feel we've saved fish and chips."

● *Hudson Bay Clipper Company, Willerby Shopping Park, Willerby, Hull (0482 657902). Open daily, 11am-9pm (10pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday).*

FRYING TONIGHT AROUND THE COUNTRY

● **1992 Fish and Chip Shop of the Year:** Elite Fish Bar & Restaurant, High Street, Ruskington, near Sleaford, Lincolnshire (0526 832332).

The runners-up were, by region:
● **London and South East:** Ye Olde Fish and Chippe Shop, 167 Middleton Road, Middleton-on-Sea, Bognor Regis, West Sussex (0243 582195).
● **South West:** Squires Fish Restaurant, Exeter Road, Braunton, North Devon (0271 815533).
● **North:** Bizzie Lizzie's, 36 Swadford Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire (0756 793189).
● **Scotland:** West End Café, 1-3 Gallowgate, Rothesay, Isle of Bute (0700 503596).
● **Wales:** Lloyds — The Fish Shop, 4 Bridge Street, Lampeter, Dyfed (0570 422366).
● **Northern Ireland:** The Chippy, 7 Railway Street, Antrim, Co Antrim (08494 60987).

● The competition is organised by the Sea Fish Industry Authority (SFIA) and sponsored by the Potato Marketing Board. Entrants were selected first by customer nominations, then shortlisted after "undercover" visits, followed by in-depth interviews and inspections by SFIA and other quality control judges. For more information, contact Maria Limonci at SFIA (031-558 3331). Previous winners are still worth a visit: the 1990 winner was The Ashvale Fish Restaurant, 44-48 Great Western Road, Aberdeen (0224 596981); the 1991 winner was Chez Fred, 10 Seamoor Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth (0202 761023).

● *The Gourmet's Guide to Fish and Chips* by Pierre Picton, published by Alan Sutton Publishing, £6.95, has about 500 anecdotal entries nominated by the public (ie, not necessarily visited by Picton).

RESTAURANT WATCH

RAIL SAUCE
Matsuri
15 Bury Street, London, SW1 (071-839 1101)
The £2.5m Quaglino's new £2m neighbour, opened on Thursday, is the first British joint venture of the Central Japan Railway Company and Kikkoman, the soy sauce makers. The chef, Kanehiro Takase, has more than 25 years' experience in leading restaurants in Japan, and concentrates on *teppanyaki* and *sushi*. Fixed menus £33-£57. On the card, reckon about £40. The general manager, Shigemi Matsuda, comes with a *big reputation* from Benihana in the US. Open Monday-Saturday, noon-2.30pm and 6-10pm.

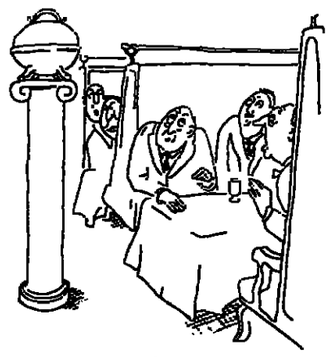
HOM GUARD
Imperial City
Royal Exchange, London, EC3 (071-626 3437)
The owners of Sri Siam, Old Compton Street, and Sri Siam City, London Wall, had Ken Hom as consultant executive chef to design the menu and train staff for their new 180-seater Chinese restaurant in the Royal Exchange, which opened this week. No monosodium glutamate, and the Imperial fried rice is made with best basmati. Open Monday-Friday, 11.30am-8.30pm. Allow £30 a head.

FESTIVE FORT
The Red Fort
77 Dean Street, London, W1 (071-437 211512525)
To celebrate his tenth anniversary holding the Fort, Amin Ali is staging an Indian and Bangladeshi food festival until March 28. Gurjit Singh Kochar, from Le Meridien, Delhi, is preparing classical Indian food until March 14, followed by a team from Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, and then Samir Uddin, former head chef to the Nawabs of Dhaka. Lunchtime buffets £15, dinner menus £20.

LIGHT TEUTONIC
Prost
35 Pembridge Road, London W11 (071-727 9620)
Stephanie Severa-Parker (half-German, half-Czech, though British-born) and her husband, David, aim to repair the lack of modern German and east European food in Britain at Prost, with the help of chef John-Paul Habermann, from Bavaria, who has previously worked at the Sheraton Park Tower, the Capital restaurant and Café des Amis in Covent Garden. Always four of five vegetarian choices (£6-£7), a fresh fish, and a daily special, and usually dishes from Hungary and Czechoslovakia, as well as Germany (about £7-£10 for main courses). Open 11am-11pm, except Mondays.

ROBIN YOUNG

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Sunday lunch without tears

The first in a series on preparing good meals with the accent on speed

The rituals surrounding Sunday lunch can be a severe test of family relations. Hours spent basting beef, preparing Yorkshire pudding and roast potatoes, *and cooking separately three* different vegetables do not put the cook in the best of moods. When the lot is consumed in fewer than 20 minutes, leaving a mountain of washing up, it is not surprising that tempers get frayed.

In my own childhood, the biggest row of the week always took place during Sunday lunch. Nothing daunted, I try to carry on a tradition of Sunday lunch in my own family. Often it is the only time during the week when we all converge on the meal table together. It is then that information is exchanged, plans made, jokes told. For this to happen, everyone has to be relatively relaxed.

So here is a plan for a stress-free meal. It takes less than an hour to prepare, and leaves lots of time in between to lay the table, have a sherry, or test anyone who needs it on irregular French verbs. It is a little bit special, as a Sunday lunch should be, delicious and, most important, a doddle for the cook. (Quantities are for six.)

If you have a double oven set one (the smaller to 400F/200C, gas mark 6, and the other to 350F/180C, gas mark 4, and prepare the potatoes for the hotter oven. If you have a single oven, set it to the lower temperature, ignore

Special potatoes

1-2 potatoes per person
sea salt, olive oil, rosemary

These taste similar to roast potatoes but are cooked in a *healthier* way.

Wash and halve the potatoes, and place cut-side down in a liberally buttered shallow ovenproof dish. Sprinkle with sea salt, a sprig of rosemary and a generous amount of olive oil. Cook potatoes in the hot oven for about 50 minutes.

Cheat's chicken fricassé

4-6 chicken breasts, skinned
4oz/110g mushrooms, wiped and sliced
10fl oz can condensed mushroom soup
½ pt/300ml single cream
1 tbsp garlic purée
salt
freshly ground black pepper
paprika

This is simplicity itself, and always delights adults and children. The more adventurous could try extra garlic purée and experiment with designer mushrooms — chestnut, oyster, *shiitake*.

Slice each breast into two or three pieces. Scatter the sliced mushrooms over the top. Pour the soup into a large jug, blend in the cream and garlic purée and season. Pour over the chicken and mushrooms. Sprinkle liberally with paprika, and bake, uncovered, in the oven for 45 minutes, or until cooked. Once the chicken

JOHN BULL/ADVERTISING ARCHIVES



Family at peace: enjoying stress-free togetherness in a 1954 Batchelors advertisement from *John Bull* magazine

Poached pears in ginger

6 fresh pears
4 pieces stem ginger
4-6tbsp ginger syrup
2tbsp golden syrup

You need nice fat pears for this — Comice work well. Peel and halve the pears and cut out a good depression when you remove the core. Lay pears in a shallow oven-to-table dish and fill the hollows with stem ginger. Mix the ginger syrup with the golden syrup and 2-minutes. Serve hot with ice-cream.

Now have a sherry and read the colour supplement, then tackle the first course.

Golden soup

1 onion
1 large can carrots, drained
1 medium can consommé
1 can frozen orange juice
½ pt/300ml milk or single cream
salt and freshly ground black pepper
½ tspn ground coriander

in a large pan with ¼ pt/150ml of water. Tip in the carrots and consommé, add seasoning and heat through. Liquidise or blend, return to the saucepan and add the orange juice and cream. Heat very gently and check the seasoning. Keep hot until needed, but do not allow to boil. Serve with soft rolls.

With everything under control, you now just need to deal with the vegetables. If you are not cooking potatoes in a

Mixed baby vegetables

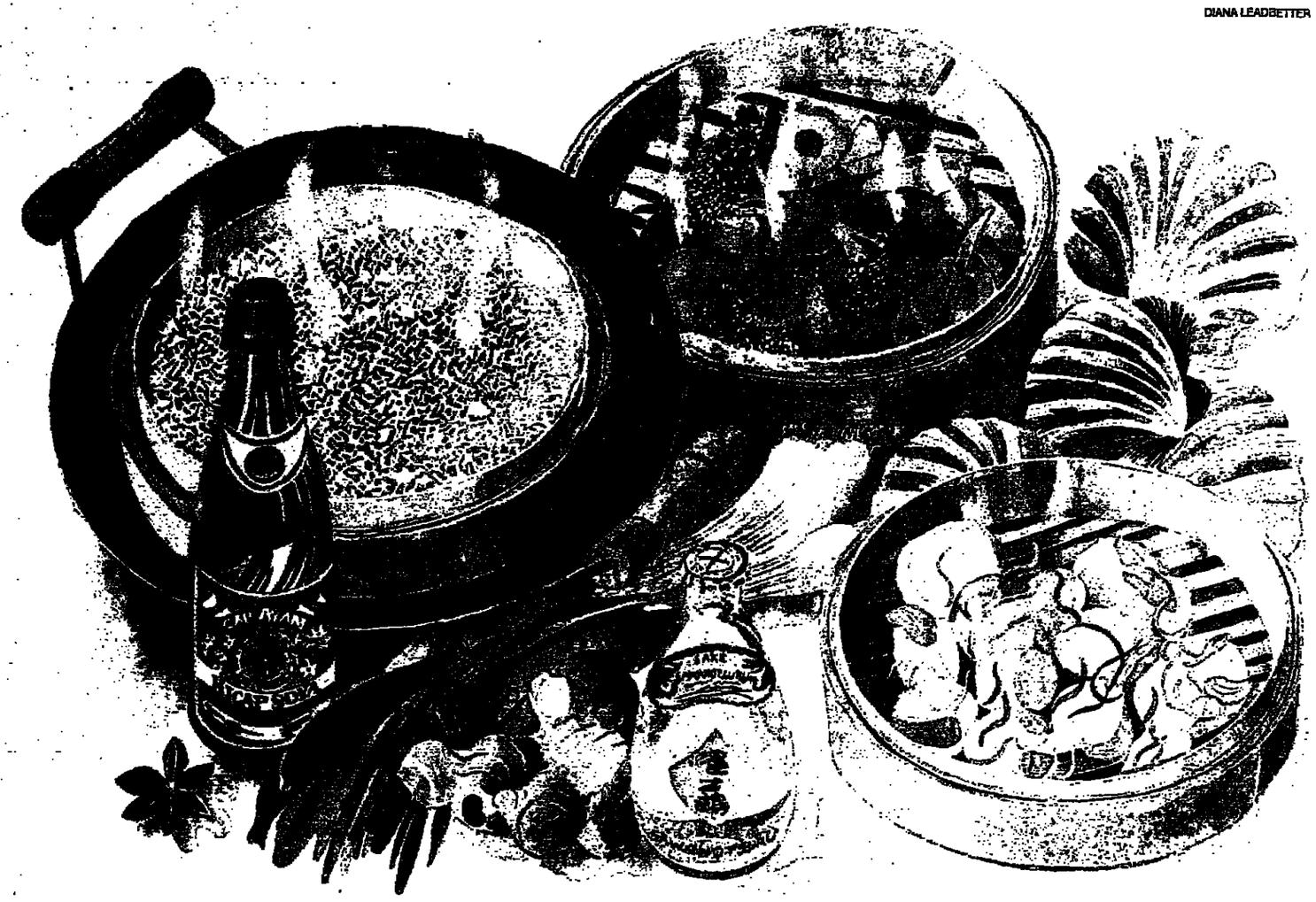
baby carrots
baby sweetcorn
mangetout

As the fricassé is pale, you need bright, mixed vegetables for contrast. Cook carrots in lightly salted boiling water for about three minutes, add the sweetcorn for three minutes, then stir in the mangetout and cook for a further two minutes. Drain and keep warm while you drink have the soup.

Full steam ahead for flavour

Frances Bissell extols the virtues of scented vapours for enhancing taste

DIANA LEADBETTER





AFTER all those slow-cooked casseroles, thick with roots and pulses of the winter months, I like to move on to different, quicker cooking methods: grilling, stir-frying and steaming suit my mood at this time of year.

Each cooking method adds its own texture and flavour to the food. A piece of grilled chicken keeps its taste but takes on the caramelised juices from the grill. Stir-fried chicken will take on a wok flavour. With steaming, you get the purest, clearest flavour of all, where the food tastes only of itself.

An exception to this, of course, is if you add ingredients to the water to scent the steam. Citrus zest, ginger peelings, lemon grass, kaffir lime leaves, celery tops, cloves, cardamom, star anise, fragrant herbs (such as rosemary and lavender) all impart subtle flavours to foods cooked in their steam.

Try cooking a leg of lamb in rosemary-scented steam instead of roasting it. Cook prawns in a cloud of garlic and lemon-scented steam instead of frying them. Scented steam will not disguise the flavour, so it is a good idea to choose only the freshest and finest quality ingredients you can find.

You do not require special equipment for steaming, although a collapsible metal or plastic steamer basket is useful. If you have a tiered steamer, you can, of course, cook several things together. In the following recipe, the potatoes can be put on to steam first and the mussels added to the next tier for the last few minutes. Small, waxy potatoes and mussels, bound with a creamy dressing or mayonnaise, make a marvellous combination. Serve it as a starter or as part of a larger buffet, with a crisp, cool fino.

Potato and mussel salad

(serves 6)

2lb/900g waxy, firm potatoes

3lb/1.35kg mussels

½pt/280ml soured cream, single cream or home-made mayonnaise

lemon juice to taste

salt, pepper

fresh chives, dill or parsley

Scrub and steam the potatoes for about 15 minutes. Meanwhile, scrub and rinse the mussels, discarding any that remain open, and knock off any barnacles with the back of an old knife. Place the mussels in a steamer basket on top of the potatoes, or in a separate steamer over a high heat. Cover and steam for a few minutes until the shells open. When cool enough to handle, remove the mussels from their shells and put in a bowl. Skin or peel the potatoes, if you wish, and dice or slice them. Mix them with the mussels. When somewhat cooler, mix them with the dressing. Snip up the herbs and fold into the salad.

FOR the next recipe, choose large, plump, fresh scallops, not frozen ones. The most expensive scallops have been dived for, not dredged up, and are worth the extra cost in terms of quality of flavour and texture. Prepare enough for four from the following vegetables: diagonally sliced carrots, broccoli florets, green beans, peas or mangetouts, long curls of carrot.

Steamed scallops

(serves 4)

4tbsp soy sauce

6tbsp rice vinegar

1 or 2 star anise pods

1-2in/2.5-5cm piece of fresh ginger

½lb/230g rice

3 cloves garlic

4 spring onions

8 scallops

salt

Mix 2tbsp soy sauce and 3tbsp rice vinegar with 1pt/600ml water. Add the star anise pods and the ginger peelings and place in the pan, or wok, which is going to be the base of the steamer.

In another pan, bring the rice to the boil in twice its volume of water, and add ½tsp of salt. Simmer with the lid on for 5 minutes. Drain, rinse and drain again, and place it in a steamer basket, lined with muslin if it has large holes. Steam the rice for 5 minutes. Meanwhile prepare the vegetables, and place them in the second steamer basket, which you fit on top of the rice.

Steam the vegetables for 5-8 minutes while you prepare the scallops. Remove the pieces of rough muscle and any skin and dirt. Pat dry in paper towels. Put the scallops in the third steamer basket, and on top scatter the thinnest slivers of garlic and fresh ginger, with shreds of spring onion. Sprinkle on a few drops of soy sauce. Place the third steamer basket over the vegetables, cover and steam for 3 minutes only. This is sufficient to cook the scallops.

If you are using bamboo baskets, these can be brought to the table, and everyone can help themselves using chopsticks and bowls. A dipping sauce can be made by adding a little chilli sauce and toasted sesame oil to the remaining soy sauce and rice vinegar.

Warm sake or rice wine would accompany this dish very well.

FOR the next recipe, choose a large, mature, free-range or organic chicken to steam. When you have prepared the breast for stuffing, the legs, back and wings will be left over. Use the back to make a little stock to be reduced to a gravy to serve with the chicken. The legs can be steamed with the stuffed breast and used later for packed lunches, either with salad or sandwiches.

Stuffed double chicken breast

(serves 4)

4lb/1.80kg free-range chicken

6oz/170g chicken livers, trimmed and cleaned

3tbsp olive oil

1 small onion, or 2 shallots, peeled and finely chopped

1 celery stalk, trimmed and finely chopped

sprig of sage leaves, finely chopped

¼lb/110g fresh breadcrumbs

salt, pepper

2tbsp dry vermouth or white wine

2tbsp shelled unsalted pistachios, flaked almonds or pinenuts

Remove the legs and wings from the chicken and use for another dish. Starting at the point where the ribs meet the backbone (that is, away from the breast bone), carefully ease the flesh away from the carcass with a sharp knife. Try not to pierce through the skin at the breast bone. If necessary, cut off a little of the cartilage with the skin. Continue to remove the flesh, easing the breast away from the other half of the rib cage. Use the carcass for stock. You will now have two breasts, opened out flat, on the skin like an open book with book jacket.

To prepare the stuffing, fry the chicken livers in olive oil just until they tighten with the heat. Remove from the pan and put to one side. Fry the onion and celery in the oil only until soft and golden. Remove from heat and add the remaining ingredients. Spread half the mixture on one chicken breast, arrange the chicken livers on top, and cover with the remaining stuffing, packing it well down to make a neat shape. Bring the other portion of meat over the top, and secure the parcel by closing the skin at the edges with cocktail sticks. Place in a steamer, cover, and steam for about 30 minutes. Allow to rest in a warm place, but out of the steam, for 5-10 minutes before slicing.

Leeks make the perfect accompanying vegetable. I would split or slice them, rinse them thoroughly, and use them as a bed on which to steam the chicken. Sea kale or trimmed and peeled salsify can be cooked in the same way. Serve with a red burgundy.

STEAMING is a good method for cooking custards, as well as the more traditional steamed puddings. You can make these as rich or simple as you like.

Lemon grass custard

(serves 6)

1pt/570ml full cream milk

2 lemon grass stalks

4 free-range eggs

3-4oz/85-110g caster sugar

Put the milk in a saucepan, together with the lemon grass, split in two down the middle and remove any withered outer leaves. Beat the eggs and sugar in a bowl. Bring the milk just to the boil. Remove from the heat and let the lemon grass infuse for 15-20 minutes. Pour the milk over the eggs and beat thoroughly. Strain the mixture into ramekins or custard pots. Put a steamer basket in a broad pan, such as a sauté pan, with a couple of inches of water. Bring it to the boil, put the ramekins in the steamer, cover, turn down the heat, and steam for about 20 minutes. When the custards are set, a knife point will come out clean. Turn out on to plates to serve or eat from the pots.

Shops awash in burgundy bargains

Cut prices, free tastings . . . wine merchants pull out all the stops to revive demand. **Jane MacQuitty** reports

Mad March bargains start here. As I predicted earlier this year, there are plenty of cut-price parcels of fine, mature burgundy slumbering in the Côte d'Or cellars because of a succession of large, above-average quality vintages, especially the golden trio of '88, '89 and '90, and a slack demand because of the recession.

Burgundy's *négociants* and estate owners are reluctant to part with these parcels at today's prices, but with cellars awash with unsold wine, Burgundy, like Bordeaux, has had to face facts: heavily discounted bottles are about the only ones guaranteed to sell swiftly.

For example: fancy a good, ordinary white burgundy for £2.99? A superior Chablis premier cru for £6.99, a classy Puligny-Montrachet for £8.99, a decent Beaujolais at £2.99, and a mature 1986 *Côte de Beaune Villages* from Louis Latour, the leading burgundy producer, for £6.99? There are hundreds of cases of these cut-price burgundies at every Majestic Wine Warehouse nationwide, and the company is holding free tasting sessions for all 14 wines in the offer today and tomorrow.

Majestic's wine buyers have been to several burgundy sources for their bargains, especially Labouré-Roi in Nuits-St-Georges. It is this *négociant*'s fresh, elegant, leafy-green 1990 Bourgogne Grand Ordinaire that is reduced from £3.99 to £2.99. Never mind that the "grand ordinaire" tag indicates that it stems from the Bourgogne aligoté grape in preference to the classier chardonnay; at £2.99 it represents astonishingly good burgundy value.

One up from there is the youthful 1992 Chablis, Les Vieilles Vignes, from Pierre Caron, made from old vines, which explains its musky-smoky perfumed scent and taste, which is offered at £4.99, reduced from £5.49. I would not say no, either, to the same producer's 1991 Puligny-Montrachet, Domaine Chavy, not a great white burgundy but with enough of Puligny's typical, deep, rich, nutty-buttery style to make it a steal at £8.99, reduced from £9.99.

Hunters of bargain red burgundy should tuck into Majestic's slashed-price 1991 Beaujolais from Jean-Baptiste Buisson at £2.99. The '91 was a first-class beaujolais year, which explains why this basic wine's pleasant, ripe, almost jammy strawberry scent and taste is so worthwhile.

At £1 more (£3.99), but with probably twice the flavour, is the excellent 1990 Bourgogne Grand Ordinaire from Labouré-Roi. Once again this is usually made predominantly with less of the classic red burgundy grape, pinot noir, but this vibrant, red fruit-laden wine is still a grand burgundy bargain.

If you want the real thing, trade up to Louis Latour's stylish 1990 Pinot Noir, down from £5.49 to £4.99, whose rich, plum and strawberry-charged palate has some of 1990's dark, dense fruit.

Better, and on sale at Majestic for the same price, is the 1991 Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune from Louis Page, with a full, ripe, plummy, perfumed palate that I thought delicious. Louis Latour's 1986 Côte de Beaune Villages is one of the pricier Majestic red burgundies at £6.99, but worth it for its mature, gamey, leafy, creosote-de Gascogne, from the Domaine de Joy, whose floral, musky, apricoty fruit is a shade watery but good value at £3.19. However, I have news for Oddbins: much as I admire the lovely, rich, plummy spice of Leziria, a Portuguese red, its £2.49 price is heavily undercut by Victoria Wine, which has it on sale at £1.99 during March.

Oddbins will also offer shoppers five big-name champagnes, including Bollinger and Veuve Clicquot, for tasting on Saturday, March 20.

Apart from Leziria, Victoria Wine has some other good deals this month, most notably 1991 Rowan Brook Sauvignon Blanc with its elegant, crisp, floral, distinctly sauvignon style, reduced from £3.99 to £3.49.

Those who like Spanish sparklers will find a lot to admire in the Cava Brut from peppery, lime-scented fruit. It is down this month from £4.99 to £4.49.

Having had my arm thoroughly twisted to taste the 1991 Slovakian Pinot Blanc, I have to confess that its pleasant, light, appley, spicy style is heaps better than previous vintages and great value during March at £2.99 a litre, the usual 75cl bottle price.

Finally, make sure you visit one of the Thresher group's outlets this month. Wine Rack, Thresher's most upmarket arm, has an Australian promotion this month, particularly featuring the country's underrated riesling grape.

The best buy is Wynns' fine, racy 1982 lime-scented Coonawarra Estate Riesling at £3.99, on a permanent reduction of 60p.

Other steals this month at Thresher include a saving of 50p a bottle on a trio of Montana wines if you buy two. Go for Montana's fine, appley '91 Chardonnay, herbaceous 1990 Cabernet Sauvignon, or the new vintage of its Sauvignon. All three are £4.99

CHRIS HARRIS



The sip 'n' sniff tests: Majestic Wine Warehouse and Oddbins have free tastings today

Majestic intends to make its tastings as jolly and Gallic an event as possible, so expect more Edith Piaf and French pizzazz than purist evaluation. But be warned, these discounted burgundies revert back to the normal prices on March 22.

Oddbins, like Majestic, has long made a speciality of offering free tastings (other high-street wine merchants should take note). Today, from 2-5pm, Oddbins will have half a dozen table wines available to taste in most branches, except those in Scotland. Best of these by far is the 1992 Lindemans Cawarra Colombard Chardonnay, whose juicy, buttery-citrusy Australian fruit is great value at £3.49 and the top wine among Oddbins' new down-under chardonnay intake.

If it has to be France, however, sample today the delights of the 1992 Oddbins

Oddbins is also offering tastings of five of the big-name bubblies

BARGAIN BUYS THIS MONTH

Wines mostly available for free tasting today:

- **1990 Bourgogne Grand Ordinaire white burgundy and red burgundy,** *Labouré-Roi, £2.99 and £3.99 respectively.*
- **1992 Chablis, Les Vieilles Vignes,** *Pierre Caron, £4.99.*
- **1991 Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune,** *Louis Page, £4.99.*
- **1986 Côte de Beaune Villages,** *£6.99. All the above from Majestic Wine Warehouses.*
- **1992 Lindemans Cawarra Colombard Chardonnay,** *Oddbins £3.49.*
- **Leziria Portuguese Red,** *The Victoria Wine Company £1.99, Oddbins £2.49.*
- **1991 Slovakian Pinot Blanc,** *£2.99 a litre, Victoria Wine.*
- **1982 Wynns Coonawarra Estate Riesling,** *Thresher £3.99.*

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Moonlighting for green fingers

Less eccentric than it sounds, nocturnal gardening has certain advantages. **Annie Rankin** sheds light on a budding practice

Gardening, you might think, is singularly a daytime activity. Yet nowadays it is not just eccentric plantsmen who are found in the greenhouse or at their borders after dark; evening horticulture is taking root among executives with little other time available.

The pastime has been boosted by the increasing popularity of outdoor lighting in garden design, which is handy both for tending and unwinding in a garden. One woman claims her anti-burglar sensor light "is far more useful for pruning and weeding in the dark than for preventing intruders".

Certain chores are carried out more effectively by night. For example, the cloak of darkness can prove a deceptive refuge for slugs and snails, which appear when the air grows cool and moist. Scores of gardeners venture out after dark to squash or put salt on slugs and snails.

Twilight recces have long been a common practice, according to the eminent botanist Christopher Lloyd. "Many gardeners nip outside with a torch to see whether it's earwigs or some other nocturnal pest that are eating the clematis shoots," he says. And Dr Henry Oakeley, a psychiatrist who holds the national collection of Lycaste orchids, admits: "Once in a while I catch vine weevils at night: then I can actually hear them crunching, scalloping the edges of my orchid flowers."

Another down-to-earth reason for visiting your plot in the evening is to give it a good soaking. James Compton, a botanist and former head gardener at Chelsea Physic Garden, says: "Watering is much more effective at night, when the liquid can penetrate the soil far more deeply without evaporating in the sun."

Dusk is widely acknowledged as a special time of day, when flowers look almost luminous in the fading light. But the chief aesthetic appeal of evening is the increased fragrance of plants that are pollinated by moths, bats and other nocturnal creatures. Night-pollinating flowers are at their peak after dark; and perhaps the best known evening odour is that of the balmy nicotiana.

> The chief appeal of evening is the increased fragrance of plants that are pollinated by moths and bats

Naturally, gardeners like to enjoy the fruit of their labours in the evening. Mr Lloyd, for instance, specifically sows aromatic species, such as night-scented stocks, beside his garden benches.

Graham Rose, the gardening editor of *The Sunday Times*, says: "The finest summer fragrances are ethereal oils that are liberated with heat. So at the end of a hot day you get the resinous smells of coniferous trees and other intoxicating perfumes."

Even in winter, those prepared to turn their green fingers blue will find some night-time compensations. This is because winter-flowering plants vie for the attentions of the few insects around by producing pungent aromas. The smell of winter-flowering viburnums, for instance, is often cited as a good reason to sally out after dark.

Dr Oakeley, who repairs to his greenhouse every night between nine and ten o'clock, identifies other advantages. "Some of my orchids are pollinated by night-flying moths and their scent is quite different to that of the yellow ones, which attract daytime insects. The green varieties look less striking but emit a potent, appley perfume in the dark that I relish."

Charles Gilchrist, a freelance garden consultant and former employee at Wisley and Chelsea Physic Garden, spends numerous nocturnal hours outside. "When I lived near Bishop's Park in west London, I had regular nightly visits from a hedgehog that I used to feed," he says. "Floral scents also seem to hang better in the air at night, probably because there are fewer distractions and so you are more aware of them.

"My favourite evening aromas are herbs, such as sage and rosemary. Obviously you might be unpopular with the neighbours if you mow the lawn at night: but earthworms come to the surface by night and it is a good time to remove them from the lawn (to save it from wormcasts) and on to the compost."

Another incentive to a nocturnal turn about the garden is the flowers that bloom in the gloom. Certain evening primroses and water lilies, for example, are only fully exposed in the dark. And British conservatories are brimming with exotic flora that peek out at night. Tony Venison, the gardening editor of *Country Life* magazine, points particularly to "a tropical night-flowering epiphyllum called King Wa, which you can literally watch as it unfurls its petals. There are also various moonflowers, climbers with gleaming white tubular bells, that open up beautifully after dark."

Cactus growers are often night-owls. One cactus, *Selenicereus grandiflorus* or Queen of the Night, produces a gorgeous white bloom after sunset which fades by sunrise. As this happens but once a year, devotees stay up in anticipation. Mr Compton recalls: "There was a Queen of the Night at the Physic Garden and I remember getting up early to see its enormous white flower."

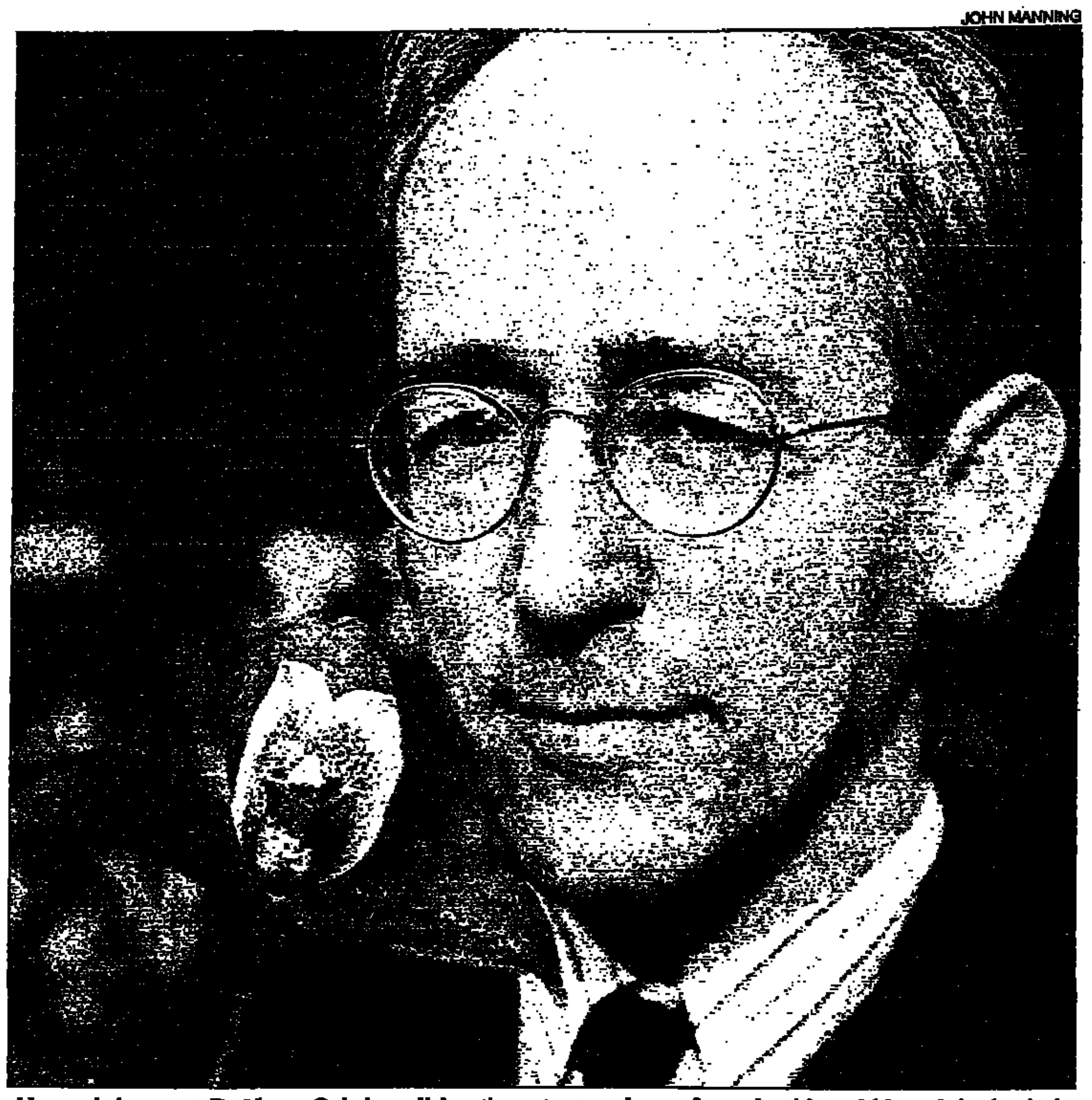
Rupert Mark, the botanist at Greenstone Landscaping, revels in the myriad wonders that come with nightfall. "I like the change of emphasis you get by moonlight or under spotlights. It can even be quite a surprise to see a plant's character emerging in a new way. Artificial lighting (because of its differing spectrum of light) actually alters the effect.

"In either case, blues, purples and whites are strongly accentuated and warmer colours tend to diminish — so by evening a whole border of colours can appear different." Some gardeners make use of the sharp glint of white flowers by planting them along paths and drives as a night guide.

For some people, evenings are the only time available for plant care. Mr Mark enjoys few things more than tending his seedlings of an evening. "There is a certain logic to this, as you wouldn't want to transplant seedlings in bright sunlight. However, I do this at night because it suits me. One nocturnal excitement I have yet to witness is the Cruel Plant, or *Araujia sericofera*, at work. This tall climber, a member of the pea family, is so called because it traps moths attempting to plunder its nectar with its proboscis and holds them in its grasp until morning."

Plantsmen and women generally believe there is a magical quality that prevails after nightfall — be it the moonlit silhouettes, mysterious rustlings, nightingales' song or just the profound peace. Indeed it seems the rewards are rich for those willing to sortie into the gloaming among the greenery.

JOHN MANNING



Heavenly bouquet: Dr Henry Oakeley relishes the potent appley perfume that his orchids emit in the dark

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INTELLIGENT slim and attractive lady living in Suffolk, looking for a new man in her life 50+. Semi-retired from business, time to enjoy all life's pleasures, having fun, sharing and caring How easy it is to find that special person, just reply to BOX No 1230 & PIN 6028

LOVELY, good-looking Scandinavian lady, widow, beautiful homes Denmark/ France, family UK, highly educated international linguist seeks retired gentleman of equally exceptional qualities, distinguished background, high standard of living, for meaningful togetherness, warmth, fun, interests. Please Reply to Box No 1109

MR RIGHT knee deep for expedition for a lifetime called marriage/friendship. Tall elegant lady 44, quiet, happy, positive, n/s, cultured, serious but loves life and loves to laugh. I love photography, films, books and also the country-life. This expedition is based on honesty, respect, good friendship and similar interests. Please Reply to Box No 1266

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PPSSST! Genuinely bright, attractive, music-loving MBA, 34, chained to desk in monastery. Seeks elegant, independent and intelligent accomplice for getaway. Photo, phone no and clean driving licence please. Reply to Box No 1223

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GENTLEMEN

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GENTLEMEN

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Speaker still fighting his corner

Ruth Gledhill listens to Lord Soper, a doughty campaigner for faith and truth



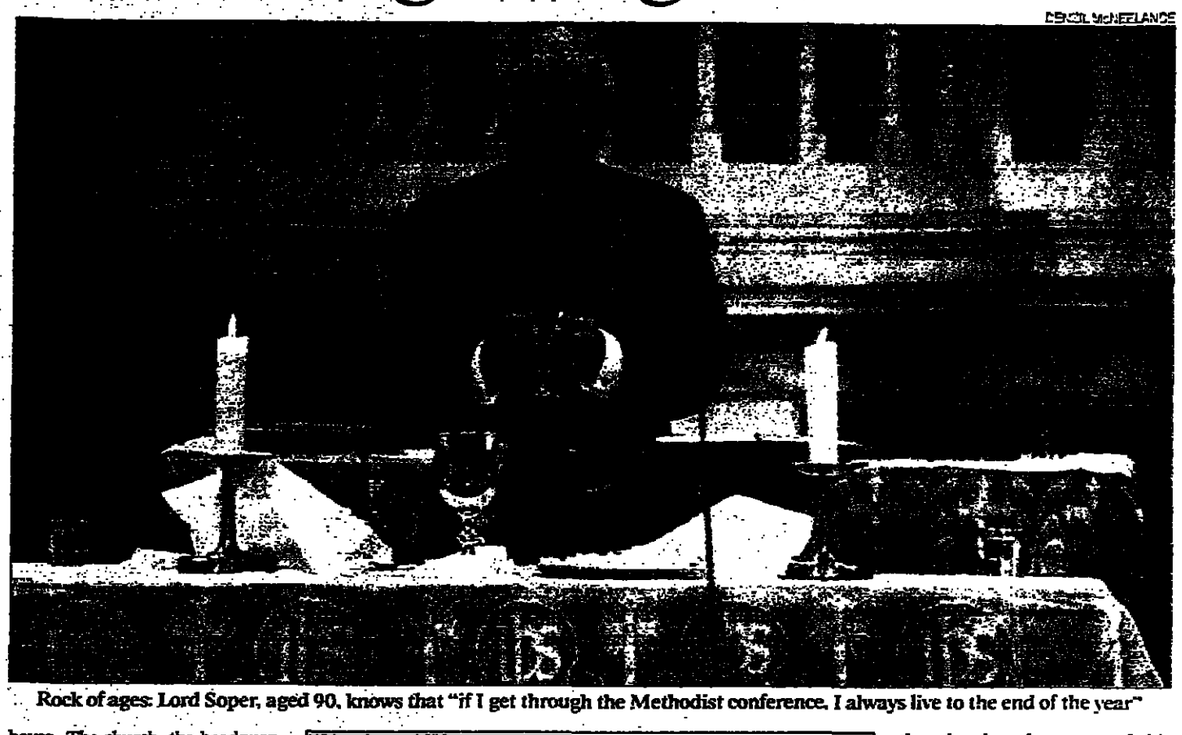
LORD Soper's worldwide reputation as a soap-box preacher has diverted attention from his other talents. His dignified and impressive style can be enjoyed elsewhere than in the freezing wind at Tower Hill or Hyde Park, where hecklers compete with his gospel message each Wednesday and Sunday for the interest of the listener.

At 10am on Sunday, Lord Soper celebrates Communion at the Hinde Street Methodist Church, at the corner of Hinde Street and Thayer Street in the West End. His great age would lead me to advise an early visit, except that Lord Soper gives the impression of energy enough to last a century more. We were there on his ninetieth birthday, but the only sign of his age was a certain discomfort as he climbed the step to the Communion table. He appeared little older than most members of his congregation.

Even in midwinter, the Hinde Street church exudes an atmosphere redolent of summer seaside worship. The semicircular galleried interior, painted in pale blue and cream, with light brown carpets and blue vinyl-padded chairs, and with sunlight filtering through stained-glass windows, reminded me of an end-of-pier theatre down on its luck.

The small wooden table with a lace altar cloth was overshadowed by the most enormous pulpit behind it, an indication of the Methodist church's emphasis on preaching. Because it was Lord Soper's birthday, the church was full to overflowing, but the usual turnout for the morning Communion is about 20. About 150 people turn up for the 11am service and about 80, mainly youngsters, for the more informal evening service.

Entry to the building is normally gained by negotiating a sad panoply of drunk and homeless men camped out in boxes and sleeping bags on the steps, although on this Sunday they had found some other haven. The church, the headquarters of the West London Mission, has an active mission to alcoholics and other deprived groups, who meet regularly in the basement.



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Rock of ages: Lord Soper, aged 90, knows that "if I get through the Methodist conference, I always live to the end of the year"

Lord Soper wore a black cassock and green preacher's scarf. We were using the 1936 liturgy, a rite with close similarities to the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*. We acknowledged and bewailed our manifold sins and wickedness, as do traditionalist Anglicans. Lord Soper occasionally departed from the liturgy, but always with an immaculate style born of experience. "All who so desire are welcome to our Lord's table," he began, later inserting the occasional "we beseech thee" where none had existed previously.

For Communion, we received white bread broken into squares instead of wafers, and grape juice instead of wine. Lord Soper would normally preach at Communion, but on this occasion the sermon had been transferred to morning worship at 11am, so I stayed on to listen. It was worth the wait, and the music at the second service, with the choir singing from the gallery, was outstanding.

"What a world we live in," said Lord Soper. "Children no longer obey their parents and everybody wants to write a book." He referred to the Bourbons, the former French royal family. "It is recorded that they forgot nothing but learnt nothing," he said.

He also mentioned his own longevity. "I have now come to know that if I get through the Methodist conference, I always live to the end of the year." The conference is the governing body of the Methodist church, which meets each summer and has a reputation for testing the stamina of the youngest man.

Lord Soper's main thrust was the debate over doubt and faith, truth and falsehood, which has occupied the churches for most of his lifetime.

He based his sermon on the three Christian graces of faith, hope and charity, which, amid all the doubts surrounding the literal truth of the resurrection and the virgin birth, have stood the test of time. "The Christian church today has to embark as never before on a fellowship of controversy, that out of that controversy there may come an acclamation of truth, an increase in belief," he said.

He spoke for a long time, maybe half an hour, longer than most preachers today could get away with. But the congregation hung raptly on every word. "I have found in my ministry that the practice of good works is the generation of love," he said. "I do not think we would have engaged at the West London Mission in caring for alcoholics if we had tested the problem in terms of how much we like the job."

● *Sunday services: 10am Holy Communion; 11am morning worship with crèche, junior and youth fellowship; 6.30pm evening worship along more informal and meditative lines, with Communion on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.*

Hinde Street Methodist Church, the West London London Mission, corner of Hinde Street and Thayer Street, London W1M 5LJ (071-935 6179)

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER: The Rev David Cruise
SERMON: Powerful and compelling preaching by Lord Soper, aged 90, who can also be heard at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park each Sunday.★★★★★
ARCHITECTURE: Classical with a two-storey portico and small dome reminiscent of St Paul's cathedral. Built in 1887 for £16,500 along the lines of a traditional Methodist preaching chapel.★★★
LITURGY: Strongly traditional, strictly Methodist, but with the appearance of being more Anglican than many Anglican churches today.★★★
MUSIC: None at the first service, some inspired singing from the choir in the second.★★★
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee after each service, and a church lunch on the first Sunday of the month. A sad paucity of young people to enjoy it at our service, but many more turn up in the evening. ★★★★

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

DOUGLAS HODGE

Actor



Where would you go?
I always like to go somewhere I've never been before. The ideal would be a deserted Caribbean bay surrounded by Alpine mountains with the Indian Ocean within diving distance of the balcony.

How would you get there?
On a Concorde night flight, and then by chauffeur-driven, open-topped car through the mountains in time to board the yacht over to the island.

Where would you stay?
A vast anonymous hotel, something like the Intercontinental in Mombasa. I like huge glamorous hotels, where you live in your own little vacuum and have no idea who else is staying there.

Who would be your perfect companion?
My girlfriend Tess and my daughter Mollie, who is 16 months old.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
About 25 nappies.

What medicines would accompany you?
Sunblock Calpol, the stand-by of all parents and Bonjela, which is essential because my daughter is at the teething stage.

What would you have to eat?
Fillet steak *en croûte*, crunchy salads and pasta dishes.

What would you have to drink?
Ice-cold Rolling Rock lager.

What books would you take to read?
The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov, which is one of my favourite novels of all time. *Labyrinths*, which is a collection of short stories by Jorge Luis Borges. *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, a brilliant first novel. I would also take a book of paintings by Vermeer and a collection of American poetry because I haven't read much and would like to.

What music would you listen to?
Water from an Ancient Well by Abdullah Ibrahim, which is the most soothing music. Ibrahim is a South African jazz musician, a great composer and a brilliant pianist.

What would you watch on television?
David Attenborough talking me through *The Trials of Life*.

What film would you watch?
9½ Weeks.

Would you play any games or sport?
I might squeeze in a quick game of seven-a-side football while Tess was still asleep.

What luxury would you take?
200 Silk Cut.

What piece of art would you like to have there?
A fresco by Tiepolo.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
Mr and Mrs Klingfilm — the couple who seem to turn up and latch on to us on every holiday we take.

What three things would you leave behind?
The alarm clock, the answering machine,and the current British government.

What three things would you most like to do?
1. Scuba-dive around the reefs. 2. Ride a horse to the top of a mountain and ski back down. 3. Wake up feeling utterly refreshed.

Who would you send a postcard to?
Just about everybody I could possibly think of.

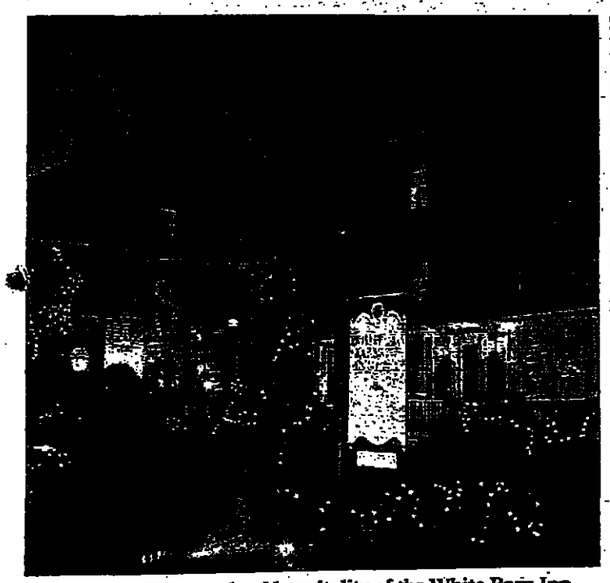
What souvenir would you bring home?
A hand-carved chess set.

What would you like to find when you got home?
A contract to play a scuba-diving hedonist on location in Tahiti.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

● *Douglas Hodge is appearing in* No Man's Land *at the Comedy Theatre.*

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"The opening of the bedrooms at The Waterside Inn has, I believe, bound the operation like egg yolks and oil. My last duty each evening is to check with my pâtissier that the Viennoiserie is ready for proving over night to be baked for breakfast in the morning. So another day will begin.

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Michel Roux, one of the fathers of British haute cuisine, explains why he is proud to be a member

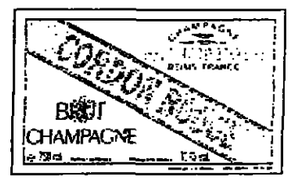
WEEK two of our two superb Relais & Châteaux offers — the Carte d'or and the Limited Editions offers — gives you two distinct ways to sample the British members of the most remarkable group of hotels and restaurants in the world — and brings the second of our competitions to stay at Relais & Châteaux hotels worldwide.

The first of our offers, the Carte d'or, entitles readers to 20 per cent off the room tariff at any of the 20 British Relais & Châteaux hotels, subject to availability, until December 31, 1993 (see below for details of the Limited Editions offer).

How to apply: To obtain your Carte d'or, and for a brochure giving details of the Limited Editions packages, collect four differently numbered tokens from those printed in *The Times* until Saturday March 20. Token Two appears below. Token three will appear next Saturday, March 13. Send the tokens, together with your name, address and a cheque or postal order for 90p to cover postage, to: *The Times*/Relais & Châteaux offer, PO Box 490, London E1 9DW.

Limited editions offer

THE second of our Relais & Châteaux offers, the Limited Editions offer, is an opportunity to sample the delights of all 23 of the British establishments (listed right), with a range of customised packages from £200 at Tante Claire to the inclusive price of £500 at the others. You are free to sample as many of the packages as you wish. Unlike the Carte d'or offer, the Limited Editions offers can be booked today without tokens and you do not need to use the Carte d'or. To secure your reservation immediately phone 0891 555539* and when asked, quote the two-digit number printed after your chosen establishment(s) to hear a full description of the customised package, and a direct booking line for your hotel (e.g. for Hartwell House dial 0891 555520 and quote new night).



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The Carte d'or offer entitles the holder to a 20 per cent discount off accommodation only, at any of the 20 participating Relais & Châteaux hotels. The Carte d'or must be produced on arrival at your pre-booked hotel(s).
2. The Carte d'or offer cannot be booked more than 14 days in advance of your stay and must be booked directly with your chosen hotel(s), quoting *The Times* offer.
3. The Carte d'or 20 per cent discount on accommodation offer does not apply to the Limited Editions package offers.
4. The 20 per cent Carte d'or offer is valid until December 31, 1993.
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● **The Capital Hotel, Basil Street, London SW3 — yellow shield (quote 02)**
David Levin's Knightsbridge hotel retains its old-fashioned charm.

● **La Tante Claire, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 — red shield (quote 03)**
Pierre Koffmann's restaurant now has three Michelin stars.

● **Gravetye Manor, near East Grinstead, West Sussex — yellow shield (quote 04)**
An Elizabethan stone mansion set in 1,000 acres of parkland.

● **L'Ortolan, Shinfield, Near Reading — red shield (quote 05)**
The chef, John Burton-Race, represented Britain in last year's gastronomic European Games in Madrid.

● **The Waterside Inn, Bray-on-Thames, Berkshire — red and blue shields (quote 05 — package with L'Ortolan)**
Michel Roux's restaurant has three Michelin stars and the greatness of classic French cooking.

● **Cliveden, Taplow, Berkshire — gold shield (quote 06)**
Built in 1666 for the Duke of Buckingham and lived in by George III's father, Frederick, Prince of Wales.

● **Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, Great Milton, Oxford — gold and red shields (quote 07)**
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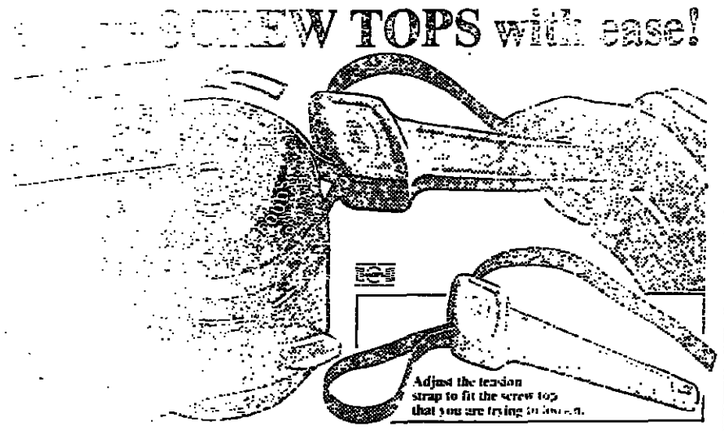
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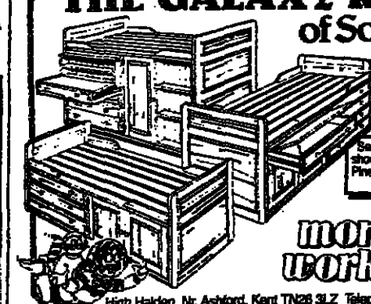
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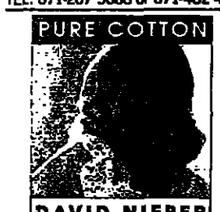
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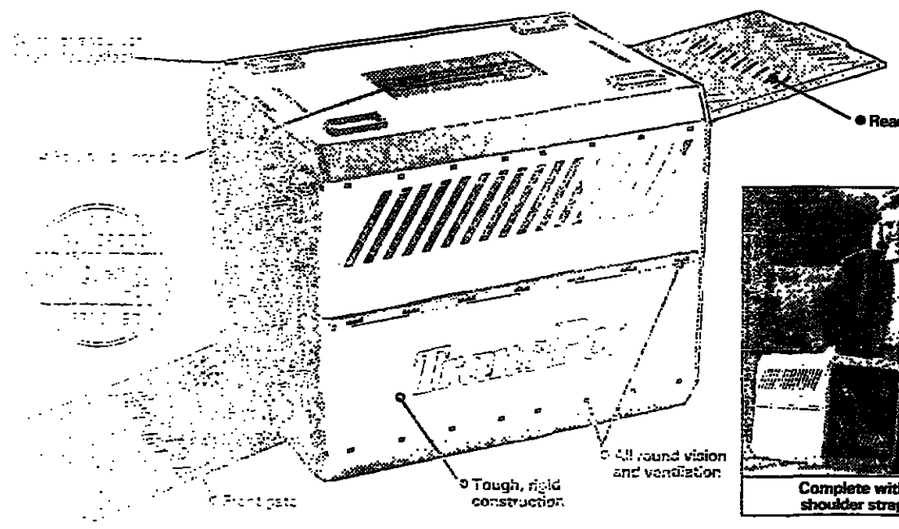


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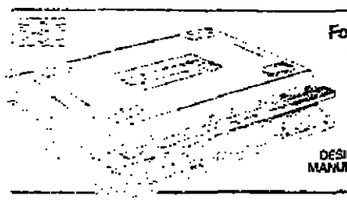
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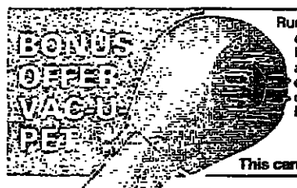
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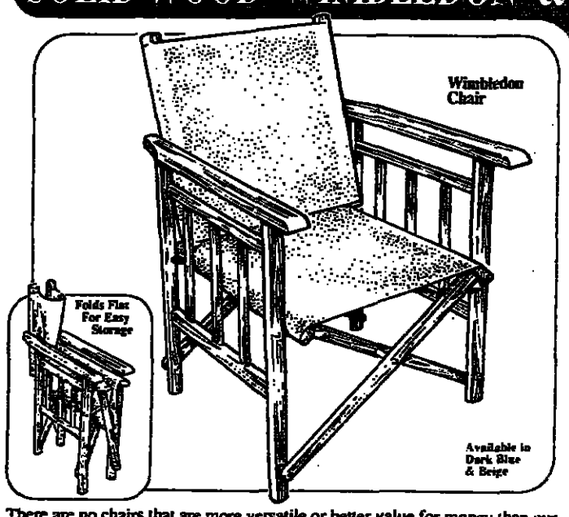
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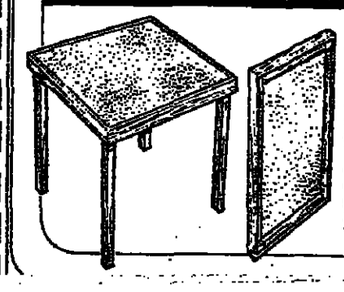
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TIM BISHOP

Hard sell: Janet Hiscoke, with her husband, Charles, and son; she put out fresh bread, coffee and flowers whenever a prospective buyer came

Raw nerves in sellers' limbo

Moving house is a stressful business, but an unsaleable home can break up a marriage, **Rachel Kelly** reports

When potential buyers visited the Hiscokes' three-bedroom terrace house in Southfields, south-west London, the family went hungry because Janet Hiscoke feared that viewers might be put off by the smell of cooking.

When the Saunders family showed viewers around their house in Wandsworth, south London, their six-year-old son James was not allowed to play with his toys because his mother wanted a tidy house. James developed nightmares.

When John and Judy Piggott failed to sell their bungalow in Reading, Berkshire, they rowed over the best way to achieve a sale. They are now seeking a divorce.

This is the reality of the strain of trying to move house in the 1990s. It used to be said that the stress of moving house was on a par with divorce or bereavement: now it seems to be overtaking both.

A survey last week by NOP and Indepth, a motivational research company, looked at the emotional effects of trying to move. The report, *Frustrated Movers*, canvassed more than 500 would-be vendors.

Of the women surveyed, 30 per cent believed themselves to be under great stress. As homemakers, women in particular feel the strain — the survey found that 67 per cent of women believed their home was more than bricks and mortar, and the figure rises to 73 per cent among older women. The longer they had tried to sell, the greater their stress.

It has always been stressful to sell a house, but in the past the strain was short-lived. And although sales of new homes rose in January and February, the outlook remains bleak. The National Association of Estate Agents estimates that whereas it might have taken two to three months to sell during the boom of the 1980s, nine months is now the average; two or even three years is not uncommon.

The effect is to put house-sellers through several phases of stress. The first stage is during the first three months of an attempted sale. Garry Evans, a pyschologist who conducted the research, says that generally people feel their house is special. "They are amazed at first when nobody wants to buy it."

This leads to laying blame. "First, they blame the house. The most negative feelings are experienced by those who never liked their home in the first place but had bought it as an investment in the mid-1980s. For those who love it, negative feelings towards the property grow the longer the houses remains unsold."

Sellers might then start to blame the estate agents or the building societies or the buyers. Finally, they start wondering what is wrong with them, seeing the home as an extension of their personality.

In some cases, people blame a partner for the decision to buy the home in the first place, or they blame themselves and thus internalise the problem. Then sellers renew their efforts to sell. This in turns increases their level of stress.

Many believe it necessary to keep their home to a show-room standard. Failure redoubles their efforts. "Even a discarded crisp bag left by a child can cause hysteria, as if this might be the reason why the house has not sold," says Mr Evans.

"Things have to be put away, and the children's shoes have to be right, just in case," says Charles Hiscoke, whose £169,000 house was on the market for two years. The Hiscokes wished to move to a house with a drive and a garden.

"The strain builds up from having your house on show all the time," Mrs Hiscoke says. "You begin to feel as if it's not yours."

The worst of it is that viewers tend to come round after work or at weekends, just when a house needs to be a haven. "You have to stay in all weekend just to show someone around your house, and they breeze in and out for five minutes on a Sunday afternoon, and you know full well they are not going to make an offer," says Mrs Hiscoke.

Buyers are widely felt to have become more arrogant and less likeable, the survey found. It also perceived widespread ambivalence towards buyers: vendors need yet dislike buyers at the same time.

The solution for most frustrated sellers would be a successful sale, especially for those who have a financial imperative to sell. But others might reconsider their decision to sell, Mr Evans suggests. The Hiscokes did just that at Christmas. The strain has slipped away since, says Mrs Hiscoke. "I don't have to worry about the height of the grass or whether the net curtains are pristine."

"By taking the decision not to sell, and by making even a small investment, such as a lamp or a chair, a sense of relief can be achieved, together with a sense of living again," Mr Evans says.

In the longer term, he believes we should learn to be less attached to our houses. "Would it not be better in future to pay more attention to the quality of life, and less to the bricks and mortar? A home is really just a pile of bricks. And there's more to life than that."

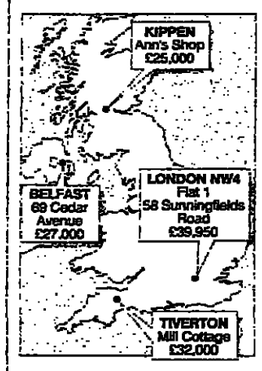
● *Next week — a ten-point guide to selling your home, compiled with the National Association of Estate Agents.*

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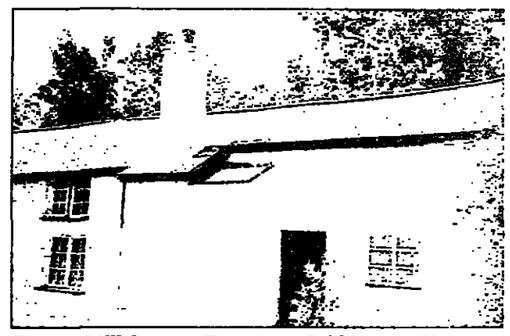


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SPORTING LIFE

Going to great lengths for charity

John Goodbody extols the virtues of swimming, as 35,000 people prepare for this weekend's Swimathon event

JULIAN HERBERT



Water baby: Jenny Seagrove started swimming at three, and now aims for a daily half hour

Lord Byron once spoke of his delight in the sea, from which he emerged with "a buoyancy of spirit" that he never felt on any other occasion.

It is an experience that about 35,000 Britons hope to share this weekend. They will be participating in the British Telecom Swimathon, a 5,000-metre event at hundreds of pools throughout the country. It is swimming's comradely festival of endeavour, and its answer to the marathon.

Five thousand metres, just over three miles, is 200 lengths of a standard 25-metre pool, and the successful swimmers will be rewarded with money for charity and self-satisfaction. Byron would have been impressed. He wrote after crossing the Hellespont: "I plume myself on this achievement more than I could possibly do any kind of glory, political, poetical, rhetorical."

Among the Swimathon entrants is the actress Jenny Seagrove, who learnt to swim at the age of three and has maintained her fondness for the activity ever since. She says: "What is good about swimming is that it is like being in a cocoon. It is a communion between you and the water. There is just the noise of the splash of your arms and the underwater noise of breathing out."

Miss Seagrove is irresistibly drawn to water, describing it as an "overall body caress, like being in the arms of a lover". She is not alone. Last year, Charles Sprawson wrote a social history of the activity *Haunts of the Black Masseur — the Swimmer as Hero*, which must have been the first book on the sport ever to be reviewed (highly favourably) in the literary pages of *The Times*.

He tells of the attraction of swimming for many 19th-century writers: Byron, Pushkin, Edgar Allan Poe, Flaubert, Swinburne, who wanted to write an ode to Matthew Webb's first successful crossing of the English Channel in 1875, Clough, Whitman, Shelley, who was obsessed with water but never learnt to swim and so was drowned off Italy clutching a volume of Sophocles, and Paul Valery, who described the activity memorably as "*fornication avec l'onde*".

As they plough through the chlorinated, heated pools this weekend, most swimmers may have difficulty in empathising with such sublime associations. But the regular winter pool training is a necessary compensation for the outdoor summer activity: in pools, rivers, lakes and the sea. Miss Seagrove says: "Outdoors the elements are all around you. You are just freer than when you are swimming indoors. It is a period of aloneness and gives you time to think."

She tries to swim daily for about 30 minutes, finding it relieves tension when she is working and that it takes less toll on the body than running. It is the original cradle-to-grave activity.

One advantage is the rarity of injuries, since swimming is a non-weight bearing activity. There is also, in principle, no contact with anyone else, although the faster lanes of pools are sometimes so crowded that it does not always work out that way.

The government has also recognised the importance of swimming as a safety factor for children hoping to take part in water sports. Under the national curriculum, it wants all pupils to be safe in the water and swim 25 metres by the age of 11. Many progress to competing in national races organised for children by age-group.

Although the competitive sport is highly developed, with international swimmers often training five hours a day, the recreational activity is less demanding. Increasing numbers of pools have lanes for swimmers of different abilities and also classes for non-swimmers, the disabled and those who wish to improve their ability on the four standard strokes: freestyle or front crawl, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly.

In her childhood, Miss Seagrove wanted to swim at the Olympic Games and trained with consistent determination. A defeat at school — "suddenly I was no longer ruling the pool" — and other interests ended that ambition. However, as with many people, the love of the activity has continued into later life.

Many former swimmers who were competitive in their youth return through "masters" events in five-year age-bands from 25. The championships, introduced to Britain by the Otter Club 21 years ago, attract swimmers of each sex into their eighties.

Long-distance outdoor races demand spartan dedication. As Sprawson wrote: "The swimmer's solitary training, the long hours spent semi-submerged, induce a lonely, meditative state of mind. Much of a swimmer's training takes place inside his head, immersed as he is in a continuous dream of a world underwater. So intense and concentrated are his conditions that he becomes prone to delusions and neuroses beyond the experience of other athletes."

● *In 1991, at the age of 48, the author became the oldest Briton for 12 years to swim the English Channel.*

Splash out

● **Clubs:** there are 300,000 swimmers affiliated to England's 1,700 clubs, with registered competitors totalling 50,000. Most clubs charge about £100 for a year's membership for adults for two or three sessions a week. However, clubs employing leading coaches will cost much more. Registration details can be obtained from the Amateur Swimming Association, Harold Fern House, Derby Square, Loughborough LE11 OAL. Open-water racing in lakes, rivers and the sea is organised by the British Long Distance Swimming Association. The BLDSA membership secretary is Mrs M. Pike, 28 Efford Road, High Compton, Plymouth, Devon PL3 6NE.

● **Fitness:** many pools run by local authorities cater for fitness and recreational swimming, often providing specialised sessions and lanes for people of different abilities. Prices vary according to the facilities, the time of day and the area of the country. They usually range from £1 to £1.70. Instruction to improve stroke technique is often available. The leisure departments of local authorities will recommend the nearest and most suitable.

● **Equipment** is cheap. A man's costume usually costs about £6 and a woman's between £15 and £20. If, on the other hand, you prefer to swim unencumbered by a costume, for a £13 annual subscription (£16 a couple) you can join the Central Council for British Naturism, Assurance House, 35-41 Hazelwood Road, Northampton NN1 1LL (0604 20361).

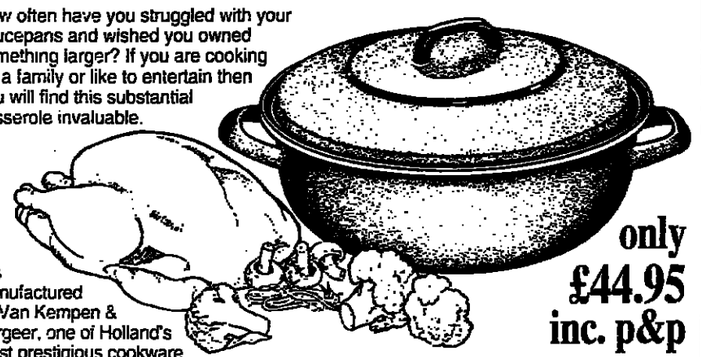


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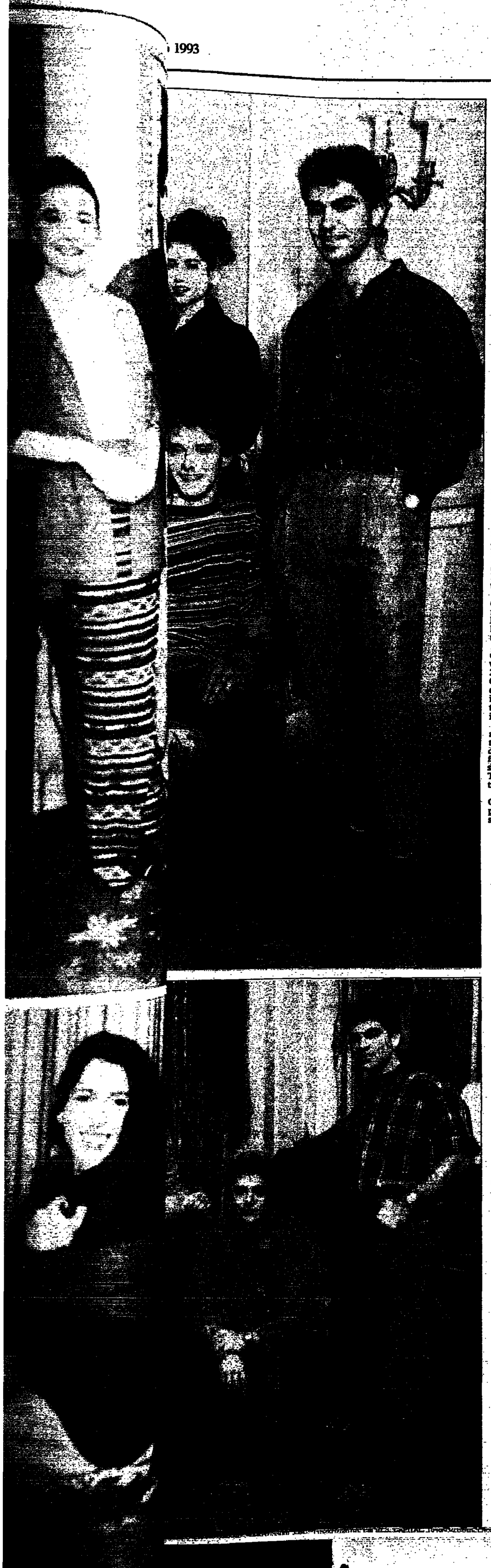
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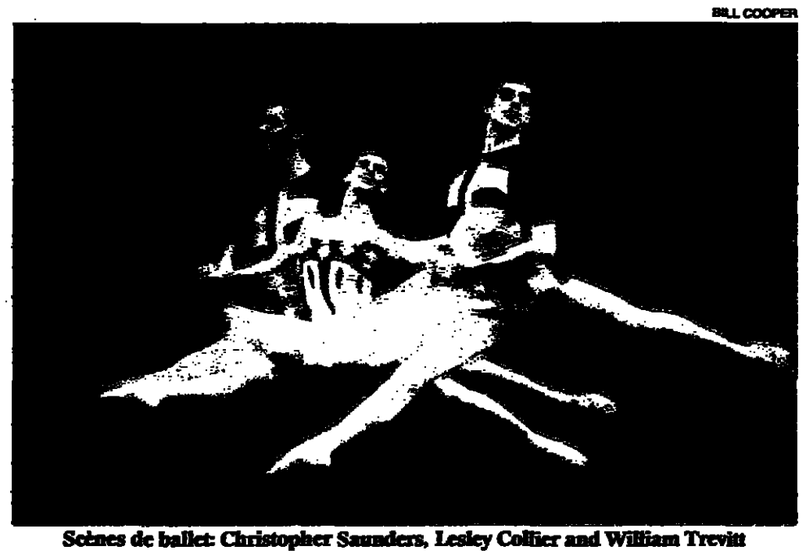
TIM/0012



Round and round the Garden's shops

For Royal Ballet dancers home is also where the clothes are — in Covent Garden. Josephine Fairley reports

BILL COOPER



Scènes de ballet: Christopher Saunders, Lesley Collier and William Trevitt

Anyone who believes that off-duty ballet dancers still swan through life in alpaca overcoats and *couture* millinery has watched too many Pathé News clips of Fonteyn and Nureyev in their glory days.

Where once dancers' feet might be splayed permanently at right angles and daintily shod, today they are more likely to be encased in clompy *Doc Martens or Nike trainers* — "the antidote to chronic, agonisingly sore feet, from dancing on points", says Gillian Revie, a 22-year-old soloist with the Royal Ballet (and who, during our talk, rested her size fours on a coffee table while slumping further into the feathered depths of a Claridge's sofa, neatly demolishing the myth about ballerinas' immaculate off-stage deportment).

Indeed, the closest most of the rising stars of the Royal Ballet have come to designer fashion is at fittings with Jasper Conran for "the world's most comfortable tutus", as Ms Revie describes her acid-etched indigo creation for the Royal Opera House production of *Tombeaux*.

"We tend to get our off-duty clothes from chain stores and markets," she says, "particularly Covent Garden's second-hand stalls on a Monday" — the source for three tailored 1950s jackets which have become the mainstay of her wardrobe. As Stuart Cassidy, a 24-year-old who, like Lesley Collier (pictured), is a principal dancer, says: "While ambition is an essential ingredient in this profession, you're basically in it for love, not money."

With mortgages, classic cars and motor-cycles to support, the company's three male dancers are forced to put fashion fairly low on the list of shopping priorities. (William Trevitt turned up in Next trousers and a Co-op T-shirt.)

Nevertheless, the Covent Garden traders might be plunged even deeper into recession if it were not for the company's frequent sorties during rehearsal breaks. "It's all too tempting to rush out in your lunch hour and nip into Paul Smith," says Michael Nunn.

The Royal Ballet's coming programme at the ROH features *Don Quixote*, *Sleeping Beauty* and Ninette de Valois's *Checkmate* — bringing with it risks of bank-breaking shopping accidents. But the dancers clearly prefer central London with all its temptations to the rehearsal rooms at Turnham Green in west London.

For the next few months, the dancers will be putting in exhausting, sometimes 12-hour days, shuttling between the two locations, shrouded in layers of clothing chosen for muscle-warming properties rather than glamour: leather jeans, lumberjack shirts, fringed suede jackets, tent-sized pullovers and the ubiquitous black leggings. (Asking them what they wear to relax on Sundays after the week's exertions elicits the weary answer: "Pyjamas".)

As and when these ballet starlets finally make the longed-for leap to the top of the bill and reap the financial rewards, there is no doubt that extra wardrobe space will be called for. After landing the plum role of Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, Leanne Benjamin, the first soloist, treated herself to a sleek John Richmond Lycra evening dress from Joseph — which she wears with lace-up workman-style boots.

Stuart Cassidy, who, like Ms Benjamin, is tipped for international stardom, says: "You do have to look smart when you leave through the stage door and wade through that sea of faces; you are aware of the expectations of an autograph-hunting audience that sees you as an ambassador for a world-famous ballet company, and you can't look like a slob."

That the dancers are (to the untrained eye, at least) specimens of lean, physical perfection does not mean that they are invulnerable to crises of body confidence. "I think ballet dancers are more unhappy than most with their bodies," Ms Benjamin says. "The skinny ones want a bosom, while the slightly more curvy ones yearn to be ironing-board flat.

"The difference between ballet dancers and other people is that we have to spend several hours a day confronting our reflections in full-length mirrors," says Ms Benjamin, who was selected for the Royal Ballet upper school 12 years ago on the basis of a photograph submitted by her ballet teacher in Cairns, Queensland.

Behind the scenes, there is little of the bitchy rivalry you might expect of five ambitious, dedicated dancers; rather a jokey, "I'll rub your feet, if you rub mine" camaraderie born out of mutual respect, thousands of hours spent at the *barre*, and sharing the angst of friends who had to leave because they grew too tall, or weren't good enough.

"It's an odd profession, where your friends are constantly being stripped away," says Mr Cassidy, who, like each of these natural clothes-horses, lived out the dreams of a million ballet wannabes when he progressed from Saturday morning ballet classes in suburbia to the Royal Ballet's boarding school, before being accepted into the Royal Ballet. On the way, he had to wave goodbye to dozens of classmates whose arabesques and pirouettes were perhaps a millimetre away from making the grade.

One perk enjoyed by the dancers in exchange for their years of dedication is international travel: this summer the Royal Ballet will go on tour to Paris, Palermo, Istanbul, Turin and Frankfurt, accompanied by Amanda Jones, the company press officer and unofficial nanny.

The dancers claim that it is during these "if it's Tuesday it must be Turkey" jamborees that the strongest bonds are formed, and much egging-on to shop occurs. But Ms Benjamin says: "I've learnt not to splash out immediately on the local clothing; I've seen friends end up with wardrobes full of unwearable sequinned saris, or harem pants that look like you're wearing a nappy."

Last year, the company had been in Texas for less than three hours when Miss Jones discovered the entire *corps de ballet* kitted out in cowboy gear: chunky belts, pointed boots (for the less footsore males) and stetsons. None of which is what one of the older members of the company had in mind when he suggested to Miss Jones that today's jeté-set should emerge from aeroplanes and make their round of public appearances "wearing hats and gloves, just like the old days".

Miss Jones bit back a smile, and enquired how he would like a mutiny on his hands.

LEFT ABOVE

From left, Gillian Revie wears sarong skirt, £159, and red silk shirt, £169, from Nicole Farhi, 27 Hampstead High Street, London NW3; shoes to order from a selection at Nicole Farhi. William Trevitt wears mustard jeans, £37.99, from Pepe Jeans nationwide (081-459 1277 for stockists); green polo shirt, £24, Thomas Pink, 35 Dover Street, W1; red cardigan, £45, Boden catalogue (071-608 3230); brown suede brogues, £110, Russell and Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, W4 and branches. Leanne Benjamin wears green Navajo jacket, £490, Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1; red leggings, £18.99, Pineapple, 45 South Molton Street, W1. Michael Nunn (seated) wears striped sweater, £205, Paul Smith, 41-44 Floral Street, WC2; petrol coloured jeans, £37.99, Pepe (as above). Stuart Cassidy wears checked shirt, £155, and stone trousers, £199, Nicole Farhi; brown suede shoes, £125, Russell and Bromley.

Photographs by John Hudson. Styling by Victoria Eyman. Hair and make-up by Catherine Buxton. Photographs taken at...

FAR LEFT

Gillian Revie wears red suede shirt, £595, from a selection at Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1; mushroom leggings, £53, Pringle at Harrods, SW1. Leanne Benjamin wears cashmere and silk leggings, £127, Pringle at Harrods; green sweater from a selection at Joseph, 77 Fulham Road, SW3.

LEFT

William Trevitt wears green polo, £42, Boden (as above); green jacket and red cords, Hackett, 137-138 Sloane Street, SW1; brown suede brogues, Russell and Bromley (as above). Michael Nunn wears green trousers, £75; tobacco suede jacket, £695; red checked shirt, £65; all Ralph Lauren (as above). Stuart Cassidy wears green plaid shirt, £70, and red jeans, £80, Ralph Lauren; brown suede shoes, Russell and Bromley.

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PETER TREVNOR



Bird watching: Andrew Crace's bronze animals and birds can bring a touch of wit to even the smallest garden, while furniture can lend an exotic spice or a homely air

The gardens I most enjoy, whether grand and extravagant landscape parks or densely compact town gardens, embody ideas that are indispensable to gardens on any scale: wit and a sense of fun. They also share a capacity for change, the thing that drives historians of the great landscape gardens at Stowe to despair, because no building ever seemed to stay in the same place. When trees grew and vistas changed, a temple would be moved, statues reorganised, an extra storey added to a building, or a monument erected.

We would not dream of fixing interior decor for all time, and it is just as important that small gardens are able to incorporate change, for even the most beautiful classic design will pall with time. In search of inspiration, I visited some of the exhibitors at the International Spring Gardening Fair.

> Although I am mainly a plant-orientated gardener, I recognise the benefit of artefacts

A statue can draw the eye effectively, even when space is limited, and Architectural Heritage offers a wide range of antique and garden statues. One of my favourite town gardens has paths climbing and winding through different levels, neighbours' trees made into focal points, eyesores blotted out with high curtains of ivy. A charming but inexpensive statue drew the eye to the far end of the garden. In actuality it was a very small statue, but its placing gave the illusion of a larger space than really existed.

When I visited the garden again a few years later, I was at first disappointed to find the statue replaced by a rosemary bush. Then, looking around, I found that the garden had entered a new phase, with accents elsewhere. The underlying shape was much the same, but the turn of a path had been altered slightly, there was a new arch, and pretty new stone pots full of geraniums acted as a different focal point.

In his small sunny London garden, designer Anthony Noel has taken a bold line, with theatrical use of huge urns and wall ornamentation that would normally be associated with much larger gardens. Somehow, by clever manipulation of formal and informal elements, he has made room for a fountain.

Although I am mainly a plant-orientated gardener, I have grown to recognise the benefit of artefacts. Beginning with a homemade wooden bench on brick piers, fashioned from some lovely old wood with brick from a demolished garden nearby, we added an attractive wrought-iron table and some chairs for outdoor eating.

We are now searching for some ornamentation for our small pond, perhaps one of the excellent bronze frogs or herons being exhibited by Andrew Crace at the spring gardening fair.

Good garden furniture can also be an object of beauty, and the present interest in period gardening has extended to period design of garden furniture. It is possible to get the airy Regency styles made in wrought iron as the originals were, or in lighter-weight aluminium.

Wooden benches made in the Lutyens style have also become a garden classic. Nowadays most are made in teak (all the reputable manufacturers maintain that the wood comes from properly managed forests). The wood can be oiled to keep its warm shine, or left to weather to a pale silvery beige.

Contrary to belief, folding furniture is not a good investment for small gardens, since even folded furniture has to be stored — and some gardens do not even have space for a shed. A really good piece of furniture which can be admired through all seasons is a better bet. I leave my white-painted aluminium garden furniture outside all the time; after several years I still like the design, and a chair stationed under a tree, even in winter, catches the sun invitingly.

However, if storage is not a problem, one elegant new design, which will be seen for the first time at the International Spring Gardening Fair, is based on the old planters' furniture of the Caribbean. The Folkestone chair, ingeniously fashioned from pieces of slatted teak on special webbing, is made by English Classics, a small firm based in Rye. It does fold up, so it can be easily moved about, or put away for the winter. The same company also does a circular tree seat. Pale canvas umbrellas are among the exotic items with a colonial flavour which attract me. I also fancy a little summerhouse or pavilion and a sun dial, but so far I have not discovered a trick of design that would allow me to accommodate them.

Using a judicious mixture of antique and reproduction items, and vernacular materials and artefacts, you can have enormous fun, without entirely emptying your bank account.

BEST BUYS

THIS is the month to make the main sowing of parsley for use in the summer. Vary your crop to include the curly-leaved Bravour or Curlina, the French-type plain-leaved. Hamburgh or turnip-rooted parsley is hardier than the other types and has an edible root, which can be used as a winter root vegetable. Sow indoors in seed-trays in gentle heat for planting out of doors some time in May, unless you can provide a warm, nicely tilthed spot out of doors with the protection of a frame or under cloches.



Sow now for summer parsley

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Fertilise beds and borders, adding garden compost and a general fertiliser.*
- *Prune roses (except for ramblers and weeping standards), removing dead wood and cutting back healthy stems by about half.*
- *Prune last season's growth on* Buddleia davidii *back to a good pair of buds.*
- *Sow busy Lizzie* (Impatiens), *petunias, nemesia, verbenas and heliotrope in a heated propagator.*

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THEATRE

LONDON

CHATSKY: Anthony Burgess's translation of the celebrated social comedy by Griboyedov, dating from 1824, usually known as *Woe from Wit*. Colin Firth is the sarcastic hero. Jonathan Kent directs. **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Previews from Thurs, 8pm; opens Mar 16, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm.

CRAZY FOR YOU: Tony award-winning Broadway musical finds a plot to link 19 Gershwin songs, including four only recently rediscovered **Prince Edward**, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

THE GIFT OF THE GORGON: Peter Shaffer's latest: bloodthirsty revenge versus forgiveness on a modern Greek island. Powerful performance by Judi Dench **The Pit**, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Wed, Thurs, 7.15pm, mat Thurs, 2pm. Final performances.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's thrilling Expressionist production of Priestley's soul-searcher. **National (Olivier)**, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Thurs-next Sat, 7.15pm, mat next Sat, 2pm.

THE INVISIBLE MAN: Not as cosy a venue as Stratford East but the show is as jolly as ever. Paul Kiev's magic tricks are amazing **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: Maggie Smith heads a marvellous cast including Alex Jennings and Richard E. Grant. **Aldwych**, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Previews tonight. Mon, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE LAST YANKEE: Subtle and touching Arthur Miller premiere: Zoe Wanamaker, Peter Davison lead a quartet of troubled Americans. **Young Vic**, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

SQUIRREL: Edward Petherbridge and Sara Kestelman in David Mamet's 70-minute comedy concerning a peculiarly severe case of writer's block: 15 years on one paragraph. **King's Head**, 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1916). Previews from Tues, 8.30pm; opens Fri, 8pm; then Tues-Sat, 8.30pm, mats Sat, 5pm and Sun, 3.30pm.

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT: William Gaunt, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Final week.

UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS AND THE TRUE NATURE OF LOVE: Highly praised Traverse production of sensational play by Canadian Brad Fraser sex, selfishness and serial murder. **Hampstead**, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Previews from Thurs, 8pm; opens Mar 15, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

REGIONAL

BRISTOL: Robert Powell and Roy Barraclough in new version of Leslie Bricusse's *Sherlock Holmes — the Musical*. Here for a month and then goes on a 26-venue tour. **Theatre Royal**, King Street (0272 250250). Opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

GLASGOW: Timothy West and Sheila Allen in first venue of a five-week tour of Theatr Clwyd's strong *Death of a Salesman*. **Theatre Royal**, Hope Street (041-332 9000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

LEEDS: *The Plough and the Stars*, O'Casey's finest play, set in 1916, with Amanda Root, Ian Fitzgibbon, Sorcha Cusack, Dillie Keane. **West Yorkshire Playhouse** (Quarry Theatre), Quarry Hill Mount (0532 442111) Previews Thurs, Fri, 7.30pm, opens Mar 13, 8pm; then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Mar 27, 2.30pm and Apr 2, 2pm.



Embrace: actors Radcliffe and Zajac (see Liverpool)

LIVERPOOL: Plain Clothes Productions continues its tour of Phil Smith's "brutal comedy" *Mrs Ceausescu's Organisation of Love*, set in Romania in the 1930s and 1989. With Virginia Radcliffe and Matthew Zajac. **Unity Theatre**, 1 Hope Place (051-709 4988). Fri, 8pm. Further dates in Northwich, Hemel Hempstead, Milton Keynes.

WATFORD: Paula Wilcox and Jeremy Sinden star in *On Approval*, Lonsdale's classic comedy about two unsuitably engaged couples. David Gilmore directs. **Palace**, Clarendon Road (0923 225671). Previews from Fri, 8pm; opens Mar 17, 7.45pm; then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 3pm.

FILM

BAD LIEUTENANT (18): Forceful, uncomfortable study of a depraved New York cop hooked on drugs and alcohol from director Abel Ferrara. Astonishing performance by Harvey Keitel. **Odeon Haymarket** (0426 915353) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772).

A BRIGHTER SUMMER DAY: Edward Yang's masterly epic about restless Taiwanese youth at the turn of the 1960s. Four hours long, but you don't begrudge a minute. **ICA** (071-930 3647).

CONSENTING ADULTS (15): Yuppie wife swapping leads to murder. Limp, silly thriller with Kevin Kline, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Kevin Spacey. Director, Alan J. Pakula. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

DAMAGE (18): MP Jeremy Irons pursues destructive affair with his own son's fiancée (Juliette Binoche). Riveting version of Josephine Hart's novel, coolly directed by Louis Malle. **Chelsea** (071-351 3742/3743) **Curzon West End** (071-439 4805) **Gate** (071-727 4043) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Plaza** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366).

HONEYMOON IN VEGAS (12): Private eye Nicolas Cage tries to save girlfriend from gambler James Caan's clutches. Andrew Bergman's agreeable, old-fashioned screwball comedy. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

LORENZO'S OIL (12): Gruelling real-life tale of parents battling to alleviate their son's terrible illness. With Nick Nolte, Susan Sarandon; director, George Miller. **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

MALCOLM X (15): Spike Lee's ambitious epic. Denzel Washington is solid as the black activist, but prickly issues get sidestepped, and there is little cinematic fire. **Barbican** (071-638 8891) **Camden Plaza** (071-485 2443) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT (PG): Robert Redford's hymn to family, nature and fly fishing. Beautifully mounted, but lacking punch With Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt and Tom Skerritt. **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).



Russian prodigy: assured pianist Evgeny Kissin returns to the Barbican (see Music)

UNDER SIEGE (15): US battleship gets hijacked, but Steven Seagal saves the day. Familiar antics, with juicy villainy from Tommy Lee Jones and Gary Busey. Director, Andrew Davis. **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-630 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeon Marble Arch** (0426-914 501) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

TOYS (PG): Toy factory falls into evil hands. Over-elaborate, unfunny whimsy from director Barry Levinson; with Robin Williams, Michael Gambon, Joan Cusack. **Odeon Leicester Square** (0426 915683).

A WINTER'S TALE (12): A Paris hairdresser's quest for true love. Eric Rohmer near his best: elegant, clear-eyed, realistic. A film laced with magic. Stars Charlotte Véry. **MGM Swiss Centre** (071-439 4470) **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: *Tombeaux*, David Bintley's elegiac and beautiful one-act ballet, is sandwiched between two extremes in the Covent Garden repertoire: The Stravinsky-Fokine *Firebird* represents the birth of 20th-century ballet, while William Forsythe's aggressive and excessive *In the middle, somewhat elevated* represents the art form at the end of the century. **Royal Opera House**, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1066), Wed, 7.30pm.

SPRING LOADED: London's festival of contemporary dance continues with a different offering every night this week. Take your pick from *Virginia Minx at Play* (Mon), Emilyn Claid's first full-length solo show in six years (the erotic subject matter carries a "not suitable for children" tag), to *Grace Not Grace* (Fri), in which the Claire Russ Ensemble takes its inspiration from sources as diverse as the royal family, science-fiction and "cyberpunk". **The Place Theatre**, 17 Duke's Road, London, WC1 (071-387 0031), all performances at 8pm.

ARC DANCE COMPANY: Arc presents Kim Brandstrup's *Antic*, a dance drama based on *Hamlet* and exploring the themes of love, madness and betrayal. This is a one-off London showing for the work prior to the company's season at Sadler's Wells in April. **Richmond Theatre**, The Green, Richmond (081-940 0088), tomorrow, 7.45pm.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

EVGENY KISSIN: The Russian prodigy, who gave an assured and expressive account of Rachmaninov's Second Concerto on his first appearance at the Barbican with the LSO in 1988, aged 17, now makes his long awaited recital debut at the same venue, with a programme of Brahms, Liszt and Schubert. **Barbican**, London, EC2 (071-638 8891), tomorrow, 4pm

ARDITTI QUARTET: This enterprising series of concerts puts Schoenberg's chamber works in context by performing them alongside music by Berg, Webern and Zemlinsky **Purcell Room**, London, SE1 (071-928 8800). Mon, Thurs, 8pm (further concerts, Mar 14, 19).

PAUL CROSSLEY: The artistic director of the London Sinfonietta gives the second of three recitals which together offer a rare opportunity to hear Debussy's complete solo piano works. **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Tues, 7.45pm.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: As part of the "Towards the Millennium" series, Simon Rattle conducts Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, Britten's Four French Songs and Frank Bridge's *Enter Spring*. A strong team of vocal soloists includes Amanda Roocroft (in the Britten), Lillian Watson, Christine Cairns, Mary King, Robert Tear and David Wilson Johnson. **Symphony Hall**, Birmingham (021-212 3333), Wed, 7.30pm. **Festival Hall**, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Fri, 7.30pm.

OPERA

ARIOLDO The recent success of Verdi's *Stiffelio* at Covent Garden should ensure a good audience for this concert performance by Chelsea Opera Group, which offers a fascinating opportunity for comparison: in *Ariodo* Verdi reworks the same libretto, moving the action to 12th-century Scotland, where it was less likely to offend the censors. Sir Edward Downes, architect of *Stiffelio*'s triumph, conducts **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, 7.45pm.

TURANDOT. After its outing to Wembley Arena Andrei Serban's reliable production gets another airing at the Royal Opera House, now with Gwyneth Jones in the title role. **Royal Opera House**, London, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), tonight, Tues, Thurs, next Sat, 7.30pm.

LA DAMNATION DE FAUST. Berlioz's *légende dramatique* arrives at Covent Garden in Harry Kupfer's spectacular staging, first seen in Amsterdam in 1989. The Samuel Ramey features as Mephistophélès. Sir Colin Davis conducts. **Royal Opera House**, London, WC2 (071-240 1066), Mon, 8pm.

ROCK

STING: The assuredly sophisticated singer is promoting a new album of tasteful pop, *Ten Summoner's Tales* **Albert Hall**, London, SW7 (071-589 8212). Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, next Sat, 6.45pm.

THE SHAMEN: Having just released their wackiest single to date, the spaced-out "Re:evolution", the techno beat masters perform some timely gigs featuring multi-media visuals. **Cambridge**, Corn Exchange (0223 357851), Mon, 7pm. **Southend**, Cliffs (0702 351 1135), Tues, 7pm. **Leeds**, Town & Country (0532 800100), Wed, 7pm.

ICE CUBE: The L.A. rapper, filmstar (*Boys N The Hood*) and spokesman for a disaffected generation begins a UK tour supported by Da Lench Mob. **Glasgow**, Barrowlands (041-552 4601), Thurs, 7.30pm. **Bradford**, University (0274 383266), Fri, 8pm. **London**, Brixton Academy (071-326 1022), next Sat, 6.30pm.

PAUL WELLER: The impassioned former lead singer of The Jam and Style Council continues to feel his way as he forges a solo career. **Leeds**, Town & Country (0532 800100), Tues, 7pm. **Nottingham**, Rock City (0602 412544), Wed, 7.30pm. **London**, Town & Country (071-284 0303), Thurs, 7pm.

JAZZ

CHICK COREA: The ubiquitous pianist and composer would be in danger of over-exposure were it not for his gifted musicianship and the variety of his performing formats. This time round he is on his first solo British tour. **Leeds**, Town Hall (0532 455505/476962), tomorrow, 7pm. **London**, Festival Hall (071-928 8800), Mon, 6.45pm. **Cambridge**, Corn Exchange (0223 357851), Tues, 7pm. **Nottingham**, Royal Concert Hall (0602 482525/482626), Wed, 7pm. **Coventry**, University of Warwick Arts Centre (0203 524524), Thurs, 7.30pm.

ANDY HAMILTON: Surprisingly this is the first time that the veteran Birmingham saxophonist has played at the city's premier jazz venue. **Ronnie Scott's**, Birmingham (021-643 4525), Wed to next Sat, 7.30pm.

THE MODERN MUSIQUARIAN: The jazz and improvised music magazine *The Wire* presents a weekend of talks, films, videos and live shows. The performances, which all take place today, include vibesman Orphy Robinson and the Balanescu Quartet (5pm), pianist Jason Rebello and Band (9pm) and D-Note (10.30pm). **ICA**, London, SW1 (071-930 6393), today and tomorrow

NEW VIDEOS

LA FEMME DE L'AVIATEUR (Connoisseur, PG): The film that launched Eric Rohmer's series of "Comedies and Proverbs", a wonderful, bitter-sweet divertissement about a Paris student briefly rescued from an unhappy affair by a chance encounter in a park. With Philippe Marlaud, Marie Riviere. 1980.

NORMAN McLAREN (Connoisseur, PG): Two cassettes reveal the charm and inventiveness of this unique film-maker. *Creative Process*, an excellent two-hour documentary by Don McWilliams, surveys the animator's life and career. *Selected Films* rounds up *Neighbours*, *Pas de Deux*, and other gems made over 40 years

REEFER MADNESS (Vision Video, 15). Notoriously bad 1936 exposé of the horrors of marijuana addiction, whose prime effects seem to be manic laughter and over-acting. Director Louis Gasnier once guided the early films of the dapper silent comic Max Linder.

DIARY OF A CHAMBERMAID (Electric, 15). Buñuel's deceptively quiet and masterful version of Octave Mirbeau's novel; with Jeanne Moreau, cucumber-cool as the provincial maid surrounded by right-wing zealots and grotesque

BOOKINGS

NANCI GRIFFITH: The Texan singer-songwriter returns to the UK in May touting a new album *Other Voices, Other Rooms*. **Birmingham**, Town Hall (021-236 2392), May 10. **Southport** Theatre (0704 540404), May 11. **Norwich**, UEA (0603 505401), May 12. **Cambridge**, Corn Exchange (0223 357851), May 14. **York**, Barbican (0904 656688), May 15. **Reading**, Hexagon (0734 591591), May 17. **London**, Albert Hall (071-589 8212), May 19. 20. **Manchester**, Opera House (061-236 9922), May 23. **Wolverhampton**, Civic (0902 312030), May 24. **Nottingham**, Royal Concert Hall (0602 482626), May 25. **Bristol**, Colston Hall (0272 223682), May 27. **Dublin**, Olympia (010 353 1777744), May 31. **Glasgow**, (041-227 5511), Jun 8-10.

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: The company visits the Royal Opera House for one week to give performances of two new productions: Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras and sung in German with Welsh soprano Anne Evans and Jeffrey Lawton in the title roles; and the first UK production of Donizetti's *La Favorita* in 30 years which will be sung in Italian and conducted by Carlo Rizzi. **Royal Opera House**, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911). *Tristan und Isolde*, April 19, 23, 5pm. *La Favorita*, Apr 21, 24, 7.30pm.

SHEFFIELD CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL: The festival looks at the English tradition of musical composition. Taking part will be the Lindsay String Quartet (whose leader, Peter Cropper is artistic director of the festival), Peter Frankl, and The Nash Ensemble. For the first time the festival will include a children's opera *The Two Lockets*. **Sheffield Chamber Music Festival**, Crucible Theatre, Sheffield (0742 769922), May 8-22.

BEVERLEY EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL: Among the highlights is Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* performed by the Gabrieli Consort and Players in the Minster. **Beverley Early Music Festival**, The Guildhall, Register Square, Beverley, (0492 867430), May 6-9.

EXHIBITIONS

LONDON

THE SIXTIES: Swinging or not, the 1960s London art scene immediately calls up a host of images: psychedelic colours, neo-Art Nouveau, Op Art and Bridget Riley, Pop Art and David Hockney, the extravagant styles of Carnaby Street and the cover art of the Beatles. It is all here, along with some neglected art rediscovered, such as that of Pauline Boty, who died young, and William Green, who disappeared after (though not necessarily because) Ken Russell made a film about him. **Barbican Art Gallery**, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-588 9023). Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Tues, 10am-5.45pm, Sun, midday-6.45pm, from Thurs to Jun 13.

GEORGES ROUAULT — THE EARLY YEARS: For those who associate Rouault mainly with the black-outlined religious and circus pictures of his later years, these early works (1903-1920) will come as a considerable surprise. Brothel scenes, grotesquely satirical images of law courts recalling Daumier, and brilliantly coloured Fauve landscapes were all at one time part of his repertoire. **Royal Academy of Arts**, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, Thurs to Jun 6.



Unexpected work: Georges Rouault's *Fille* dated 1906

ROBERT RYMAN: This retrospective of 75 works from the last 40 years shows the extraordinary variety of feeling and materials the artist has been able to introduce into basic white. **Tate Gallery**, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, until Apr 25.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT GALLERY: A chance to see the only complete interior by the American Frank Lloyd-Wright anywhere in Europe. **Victoria & Albert Museum**, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8441). Mon, midday-5.50pm, Tues-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2.30-5.50pm.

REGIONAL

SOL LEWITT — DRAWINGS 1958-1992: About 350 of the American Minimalist's works on paper show his sensitive response to colour and texture. **Museum of Modern Art**, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0865 722733). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm (Thurs to 9pm), Sun, 2-6pm, until Mar 28.

ROY LICHTENSTEIN: The young man who redefined the strip cartoon as high art, later turned into a grand old man of American painting. His irresistible rise is chronicled here. **Tate Gallery Liverpool**, Albert Dock, Liverpool (051-709 0507). Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm, until Apr 18.

CIVIL WAR: This touring display from the Royal Armouries includes more than 60 prize items. Sponsored by *The Times*. **Cornlum Museum**, Park Street, Cirencester (0285 655611). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Mar 28.

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical Music, Opera:** Ian Brunskill; **Rock, Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne; **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **New Videos:** Geoff Brown; **Bookings:** Heather Alston

EVENINGS OUT

THE VERY REV COLIN SEMPER CANON OF WESTMINSTER



C Clergymen at Westminster Abbey are a little better paid than others but the only way they can go to things which are traditionally very expensive is if friends take pity and treat them. Recently I saw *Turandot* at the Royal Opera House [until March 13], thanks to a friend of mine who is a director of British Gas. It's an extremely lavish production, which I hugely enjoyed; but I felt guilty the following morning when British Gas announced they were to lose some 2,000 jobs. More within my means is a friendly little Turkish restaurant called Marmaris in Pimlico (071-828 5940) where you can get an excellent four-course *meze* at £7.95. A colleague was telling me he had seen Peter Shaffer's new play *The Gift of the Gorgon* [RSC The Pit, Barbican until March 11, and Wyndham's Theatre from March 18]. He explained gnomically: "I didn't take my wife because she doesn't like to see harrowing events translated from the world onto the stage" and that's what made me want to go and see it . . . " ?

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *18*

BRANDADE

(b) In full *brandade de morue*: A Provençal dish made from salt cod, a French adaptation of the Portuguese *brandado*, literally thing that has been moved or shaken: "Nothing is better, says a Provençal proverb, for reviving and remaking a man than living in the clear sunlight, speaking Provençal, eating brandade, and drinking the good red wine of Provence."

SPANDITE

(b) A manganiferous garnet resembling spessartine but containing more iron and calcium, a blend of SPessartite and ANdraDITE: "Spandite, a garnet intermediate in composition between spessartite and andradite, occurs in the Kodurite series of the Srika-kulam district of Andhra. It varies in colour from deep orange to brown orange-red and blood-red and never displays the lighter orange shades of the true spessartite."

LIMBA

(b) The West African tree, *Terminalia superba*, or the hardwood obtained from it, from the Gabon name *limbo*: "Limba is a light, honey-coloured hardwood from Africa. The new limba furniture has all the charm and grace one expects."

PODUNK

(b) A small tribe of Indians formerly inhabiting an area around the Podunk river in Hartford County, Connecticut, the Algonquian place name: "A few years previously in 1631 the chief of one of the Indian tribes in the Connecticut Valley, the Podunks, had journeyed to the Massachusetts and Plymouth

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Given the chance to conduct an operatic version of *Le Damnation de Faust*, Sir Colin Davis could not resist. **Hilary Finch** reports

Music to sell your immortal soul for

Spurred by its success with Verdi's *Stiffelio*, the Royal Opera is now ready to raise the curtain on another virtually unstaged and all but unstageable masterpiece, Berlioz's "dramatic legend", *Le Damnation de Faust*.

Berlioz never intended it as anything but a concert piece. He set the opening in Hungary, solely and unashamedly so that he could include the Rakóczy March, which he had heard and transcribed on a visit to Pest. Then, with scant regard for topographical or dramatic consistency, he moved on to a song of the rat, a song of the flea, a dance of the sylphs, a will o' the wisps minuet.

Director Raoul Gunsbourg could not resist turning the dance of the sylphs into an aerial ballet, and adapted *Faust* for the stage at Monte Carlo in 1893. Sir Thomas Beecham conducted a staging at the Royal Opera in 1933. It has not been seen at Covent Garden since then. Kobbé, bible and breviary of every operaphile, declares Berlioz's *Faust* as "too dramatic for the concert hall, insufficiently stageworthy for the opera house." But that was before Sir Colin Davis.

As a cub conductor, Davis was introduced to the second part of Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* at one of William Glock's Bryanston summer schools. He couldn't believe his ears . . . "that anyone could possibly spin such melodies!"

The German poet Heine, after all, called Berlioz "a colossal nightingale, a lark the size of an eagle". Sir Colin used his years as assistant conductor to the BBC Scottish Orchestra in Glasgow, and as director of the Chelsea Opera Group, to start exploring Berlioz. "I felt the only way to deal with it was to make sure people could *hear* the music."

By the mid-1970s, during his time as music director of the Royal Opera, both *Les Troyens* and *Benvenuto Cellini* were in the repertoire at Covent Garden: by the late 1980s, Sir Colin had recorded the complete works of Berlioz for Philips. The cycle won 22 prizes. "and here we are today, with *Faust*".

> 'If the music is going to be beautiful, it will have to be *so* beautiful that time will stand still'

There are plenty of stage directions scattered throughout Berlioz's score. So why did he deliberately not write his *Faust* for the stage? "Well, I think his decision was entirely characteristic of the way his imagination worked. He didn't — even in *Les Troyens* — think in terms of things *happening*. His imaginative processes don't, if you like, go with theatrical time. There's that extraordinary moment in *Les Troyens* when Andromaque crosses the stage with her son, to be blessed by Priam. Nobody sings a note. There's just the keening of the clarinet . . . Berlioz tends to set up *tableaux vivants*, rather than write a play with music like, for instance, *Figaro*."

Berlioz's *Memoirs* reveal a peripatetic, episodic work-in-process, each tableaux created *en voyage*: "I wrote when I could and where I could: in the coach, in the train, on steam boats . . . at Vienna I wrote Mephistopheles' aria 'Voici des roses' . . . in Pest, in the light of a shop's gas lamp . . . I wrote the chorus of the 'Ronde des Paysans' . . ." and so on.

"The most beautiful things in *Faust*", Davis says, "reflect the inner life of the characters. Berlioz was happiest of all when he could Hamletise — as opposed to Mozart, who despises Don Giovanni so much that he doesn't give him a single soliloquy. Because he knows the man has nothing to say. Don Giovanni has no inner life."

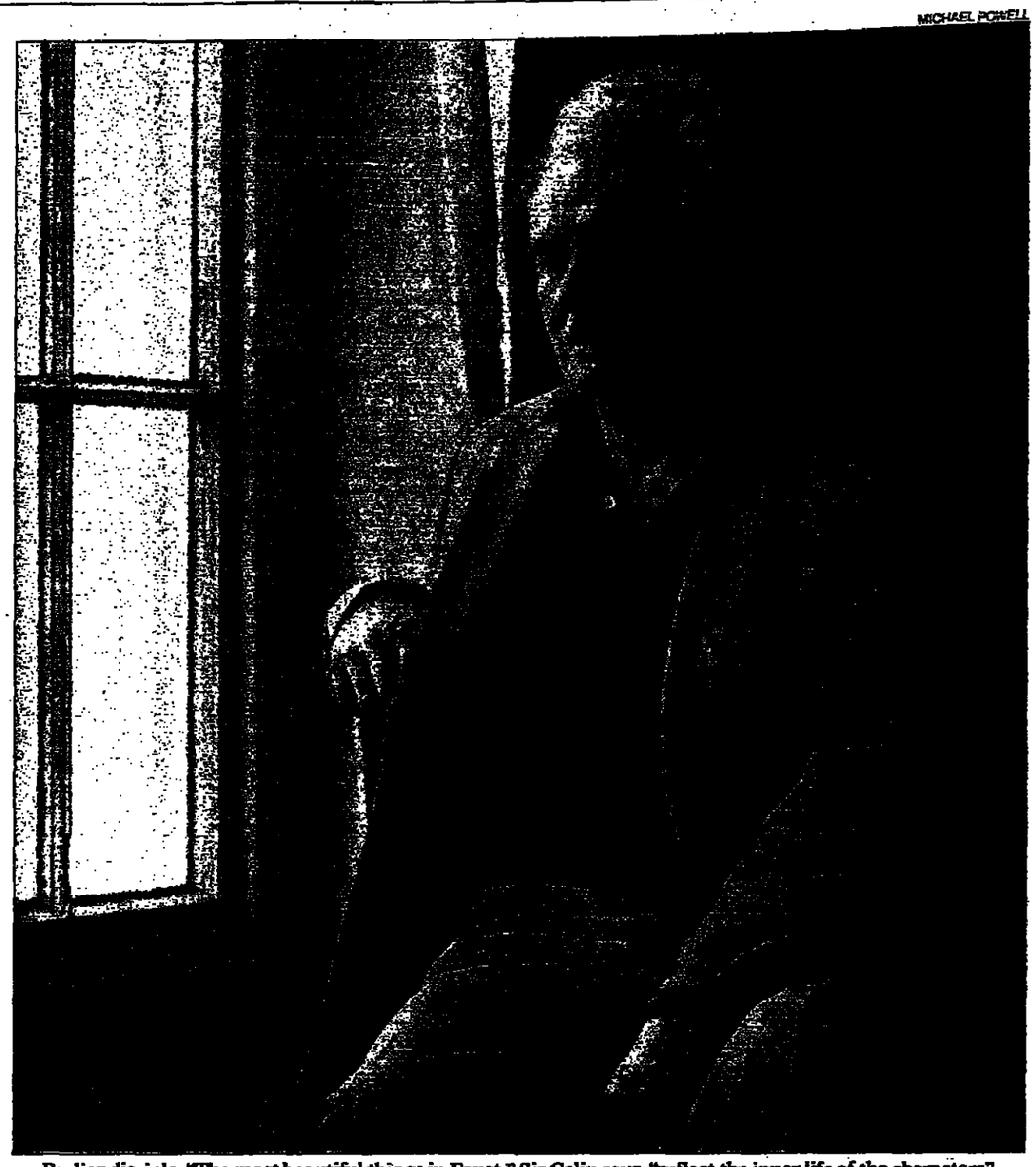
Doesn't this emphasis on inner vision make the staging of *Faust* with any real integrity hopelessly problematic? "I don't honestly know yet. I always thought it would be impossible. In this case, I was given the opportunity to conduct a production which already existed, and I couldn't resist it."

Sir Colin regrets that he could not work with Harry Kupfer from the start of his concept: this production, after all, originated in Amsterdam on the stage of the Music-Theatre of the Netherlands Opera in 1989. "To my mind, the only way you could probably ever do the piece justice would be with a film. There could then be all kinds of magic, all kinds of metamorphosis. But this production certainly has magic of its own. Mephistopheles, for instance, sings his 'Voici des roses' with a tin of Coke in his hand, walking towards Faust, who is lying on a rubbish heap. I think I can see what he means. If you wish, you can turn a dungheap into the garden of Eden."

In savagely counterpointing ugliness and beauty, Kupfer's production sets up a real challenge to the power of music itself. "It puts a tremendous responsibility on us in the pit. If the music is going to be beautiful, it will have to be *so* beautiful that time will stand still."

● La Damnation de Faust *opens at the Royal Opera House (071-240 1066) on Monday, 8pm.*

MICHAEL POWELL



Berlioz disciple: "The most beautiful things in Faust," Sir Colin says, "reflect the inner life of the characters"

From Calais to London, at last

DONALD COOPER

Austere masterpiece: a scene from the Guildhall production, the first ever in Britain

OPERA

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THAT Donizetti's operatic setting of a well-known story — the six burghers of Calais — should have had to wait 157 years for its British premiere is incomprehensible. It is one of his very finest serious operas, scored with great care and economy, adventurous in some of its harmonic sequences, unusual in its use of reminiscence motifs and, as befits the plot, austere in overall colour.

There is little vocal display, and what there is springs naturally from the action; this could account for the comparative failure in Naples of an opera aimed squarely, in subject matter and musical layout, at the Parisian market. Unlike so much Donizetti, it is not aria-based (you have to wait 30 minutes for the first cavatina and cabaletta) but moves forward mainly through duets, arioso and exceptionally strong concerted finales.

All this emerged in the Guildhall School's properly serious premiere performance, sympathetically conducted by Clive Timms. Stephen Medcalf's production was sober and to the point, taking the action at face value. In the magnificent second-act finale the six burghers, including a father and son and two brothers, step forward one by one to sign the book of martyrdom, and the way the audience was held breathless and awed was tribute to Medcalf's discretion and Donizetti's genius. The only mistake was the inclusion of the third-act ballet, certainly as far as the choreography for soldiers was concerned.

There are three really juicy main roles, all of them testing to young voices. The Canadian baritone Nathan Berg, excellent in Mozart and already with many prizes to his name, found the cabaletta section of the Mayor's duet with his daughter-in-law tough going — it goes up high and stays there — but elsewhere brought a wide range of colour and expressive suppleness of phrase.

In the trouser-role of his son Aurrelio, the Scottish mezzo Helen Lothian displayed an easy, creamy top and a fruity low register, a few comparatively muted notes in between need strengthening to achieve the required seamlessness. She sang her florid music confidently, especially in the *Norma*-style duet with the mettlesome Venezuelan soprano Elvia Sanchez (a vibrant, cleanly projected tone).

The Dutch baritone Peter Bording made much of Edward III's single appearance and Diane Charlesworth's beautifully warm soprano made one wish Queen Isabella had more lines. As Aurrelio's infant son, who plays an important (but silent) role, little Timothy Swain tugged at many a heartstring. There are performances Monday and Wednesday: try and squeeze in.

RODNEY MILNES

A mission to commission

The Society for the Promotion of New Music is celebrating its 50th birthday

Whatever happened to the music of Ralph Wood? What made Norman Del Mar lay aside his manuscript paper in favour of the baton? Who was Eric Hudes? Questions like these spring to mind on scouring the list of composers whose work has been selected by the Society for the Promotion of New Music over the past 50 years. If the society worked properly, would we not by now be *au fait* with the complete oeuvres of Hudes?

But that is hardly the point. After all, even critics have been known to miss the mark in predicting what will be significant or not. And even taking into account the large number of SPNM composers who have turned out to be insignificant, the list of known and admired figures is far longer: Malcolm Arnold, William Alwyn and Elizabeth Maconchy included.

Now the society is marking its fiftieth anniversary with celebrations which culminate tomorrow in a concert of music by young, mostly unknown composers, to be given by Jane's Minstrels at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The programme, which includes music by seven composers, features four London premieres.

The SPNM began life in 1943 as the Committee for the Promotion of New Music, the brainchild of the composer Francis Chagrin. Tippett and Britten served on the first committee; the president was Vaughan Williams, the chairman Arthur Bliss. From financially shaky beginnings the SPNM has become a sturdier organisation, thanks largely to a wisely invested legacy of £125,000 which came its way in 1967. The society receives around 400 scores each year; about 90 are shortlisted, around 40 are performed.

Chosen scores are played at SPNM-sponsored events around the country, at universities and in various festivals. Sometimes they are subjected to the workshop treatment, with open discussion and rehearsal. "Perhaps the greatest success story of the SPNM", says Richard Steele, the society's executive director, "is that we pioneered these workshops. Partly because of them, composers are probably better informed about the practicalities of performance than ever. I'd like to think that audiences now have a greater appreciation for the craft of composition, even if they don't like a particular piece. Certainly attendances are going up."

The society works on a voluntary basis, and even composers who have been turned down for performance but have since made good (Colin Matthews, George Benjamin) have given time to it.

Recently the SPNM has widened its activities. In 1989 it formed the NMC recording label (now an independent company), devoted to new British music. Since 1990, the SPNM has also been the publisher of *New Notes*, a kind of listings magazine for contemporary music events. And for four months from April, no doubt eager to counter the image of elitism with which contemporary music has always been burdened, they will be sponsoring the populist Classic FM's Contemporary Classics programme.

STEPHEN PETTITT

● *SPNM Fiftieth Anniversary Concert, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 3pm*

RECORDS: Domingo sings Donizetti; and a jazz saxophonist takes the lead

Formal delights and lovers' sighs

In 1962 Placido Domingo sang opposite Lily Pons in **Lucia di Lammermoor**, his first stage Edgardo and, it turned out, her last Lucia. Thirty years on — or almost, for much of DG's *Lucia* (435 309-2, 2 CDs) was recorded in 1990 — Domingo proves he can still handle Donizetti with panache. He lightens his voice with soulful plangency in the final scene before Edgardo stabs himself and joins his Lucy up there with the angels.

His Lucia is Cheryl Studer, whom he last partnered on an opera album in *Tannhäuser*. Together they make much fine romantic music in the swaying duet of Act I, where parting becomes such sweet sorrow as the waves and breezes carry the lovers' sighs to each another. Studer, too, can fine down the ample soprano she uses for Wagner and Strauss, and does this to notable effect in the Mad Scene, which is no flashy coloratura display but a vivid internal monologue. The little sigh of satisfaction at "Alfin son tua" is especially touching.

CLASSICAL

This stellar pairing has mixed support. Samuel Ramey makes Raimondo much more than the usual token pillar of the church. Jennifer Larmore, Covent Garden's recent Rosina, is an impressive Alisa. But the Arturo is weak and Juan Pons merely plods his way through the evil plots of Enrico.

What makes this the most desirable of recent *Lucias* is the conducting of Ion Marin. Abbado's young assistant in the Vienna days shows instant control in this, his first opera set.

Weber's final opera **Oberon** (EMI 7 54739 2, 2CDs), composed a few years before *Lucia*, is now mainly remembered for two concert pieces: the overture and the soprano aria "Ozean! du Ungeheuer!". It has remained scuppered by its libretto from J.R. Planché, who was less intent on providing a coherent narrative than *on delighting the audience* of the day with multiple scenic effects — the commission came from the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

James Conlon and the Cologne Opera use the Mahler adaptation and discard spoken dialogue in favour of a morose narration in German. There is some heroic but not always steady singing from Ben Heppner as Huon of Bordeaux, and Deborah Voigt is well matched as Rezia, who gets *that* aria.

But the high point of a variable score is the close of Act II, where those mermaids and elves dance and sing for Oberon's delight. Without it, would Mendelssohn have composed the incidental music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

JOHN HIGGINS

Meaty sounds, and breakfast too

So, another British saxophone player steps forward. You can be forgiven for sighing a deep sigh when you consider a field that is already so over-crowded. But concert-goers who have seen **Dave O'Higgins** in his many guises — he has lent his talents to countless bands, from NYJO and the John Dankworth orchestra to the tigerish funketeers of Roadside Picnic — will know that the 28-year-old deserves his place among the elite.

He has unobtrusively worked his way to the front. His debut as a leader, *All Good Things* (EFZ Records EFZ-1002), reflects his varied influences, Rollins and Coltrane chief among them on "Dear Lord" and a boisterous charge through "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye".

JAZZ

O'Higgins's robust improvisations invariably convey a sense of structure, and he is emerging as a fine composer in his own right. The session was made immediately after a week's residency at Ronnie Scott's, which goes some way to explaining the unusually confident ensemble work by pianist Robin Aspland, bassist Alec Dankworth and drummer Jeremy Stacey.

O'Higgins turns up again, this time in the role of self-effacing team player, on the fourth release from the saxophone quartet **Itchy Fingers**, a group which has gone through several personnel changes since beating Andy Sheppard into second place in a televised national jazz competition six years ago. *Full English Breakfast* (Enja ENJ-7085) again matches precise interplay with skittish arrangements reminiscent of Loose Tubes. Hearing the group cope with a frantic version of "A Night in Tunisia" is much like watching a four-man bobsleigh hurtle down Everest blindfolded at dead of night.

Somehow they avoid disaster, and none the less, a limited form, and the restless machine-gun attack inevitably palls after three or four numbers. The languid pulse and legato patterns of Mike Mower's "The Crillon Controller" offer some relief, but not for long.

Apologies for mentioning Duke Ellington's name twice in a fortnight, but the CD reissue of *Back To Back* (Verve 8236372) cannot be allowed to pass without a fanfare. Recorded in 1959 in conjunction with the altoist Johnny Hodges, the small-group session takes half a dozen cobwebbed blues themes and drapes them in elegant new attire.

CHRIS PARR



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Hollywood vs America

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 6 Mar 7.30 — PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Leonard Slatkin (cond) John Anderson (ob) D Wilson-Johnson (bass) Britten Young Person's Guide to the Orch, Maxwell Davies Strathclyde Conc No 1, Walton Belshazzar's Feast. £28, £22, £17, £10, £5 — Philharmonia Ltd

Sun 7 Mar 3.45 — LAZAR BERMAN International Piano Series Piano Matinee. Liszt Funérailles; Sonetto 104 del Petrarca, Tarantella. Schubert/Liszt Gretchen am Spinnrade; Ave Maria; Erlkönig; Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition. £15, £12, £8 — Harrison/Parrott Ltd/SBC

Sun 7 Mar 7.30 — VERDI & PUCCINI GALA NIGHT National Symphony Orch, Grenadier Guards Fanfare Trumpeters, M Handley, C Smith, A Mee, A H Morgan. Inc excerpts from La Bohème, Tosca, Turandot. £21.50, £18.50, £15.50, £12.50, £8.50 — Victor Hochhauser

Mon 8 Mar 7.30 — CHICK COREA Solo. The great jazz pianist/composer, known for his work with Miles Davis & Return to Forever, returns for his first-ever solo concert. £20, £15, £10 — Serious Speakout/Jazz FM

Tue 9 Mar 7.30 — PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Sir Neville Marriner (cond) Alfred Brendel (piano) Britten 4 Sea Interludes; Bach Keyboard Concerto BWV.1056; Benjamin Ringed by the Flat Horizon; Mozart Piano Concerto K.491. £5, £4 (ONLY) — Philharmonia Ltd

Wed 10 Mar 7.30 — ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (conductor) Beethoven Ov Coriolan; Symphony No.5; Maxwell Davies Worldes Blis; Sir Charles: His Pavan (London Prem): £25, £19, £14, £10, £5 — RPO Ltd

Thu 11 Mar 7.30 — HAYDN: THE CREATION The Bach Choir, English Chamber Orchestra, Sir David Willcocks (conductor) Lesley Garrett (soprano) Martyn Hill (tenor) Willard White (bass) £24, £20, £16, £11, £6 — The Bach Choir

Fri 12 Mar 7.30 — CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Towards the Millennium 1921-1930. Simon Rattle (conductor) Bridge Enter Spring; Britten Four French Songs; Ravel L'Enfant et les Sortilèges. £25, £20, £17, £14, £10, £5 — SBC

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 6 Mar 7.45 — VERDI: AROLDO (Concert perf in Italian) Sir Edward Downes (cond) A Mee, A Michaels-Moore, A Thane, M Beesley, Chelsea Opera Group Chorus & Orch. One of Verdi's less well-known, but unjustly neglected, scores. RETURNS ONLY — Chelsea Opera Group

Sun 7 Mar 3.00 — SPNM 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT Jane's Minstrels, Roger Montgomery (cond) Prog inc A Vores 5 Little Fly Stories (UK prem); T Ingoldsby Te Renca, Y Kyriakides No One's Piming, K Markham Whirligig (London prems) £12, £7.50, £5 — SPNM

Sun 7 Mar 7.45 — CORONATION MUSIC. The London Pro Arte Orchestra, Murray Stewart (cond) Handel Zadok the Priest; Arrival of Queen of Sheba; The King Shall Rejoice; Bach Brandenburg No.3; Mozart Te Deum; Ave Verum; Coronation Mass. £11, £9 (ONLY) — LFC

Tue 9 Mar 7.45 — DEBUSSY: THE COMPLETE SOLO PIANO WORKS Paul Crossley (pno) Children's Corner; Rêverie; Nocturne in D flat; Masques; D'un cahier d'esquisses; L'isle joyeuse; 2 Arabesques; Préludes Book 1. £12, £10, £8, £6 — Van Walsum Mgt Ltd

Wed 10 Mar 7.45 — ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT Julia Gooding (sop) Boccherini 250th Anniversary Concert. Ov. in D; Aria, Se d'un amor tiranno, crudel trionfar; Cello Conc Op.34; Son 2 cellos; Stabat Mater £12.50, £10, £7.50 (ONLY) — OAE

Thu 11 Mar 7.45 — CRISTINA ORTIZ International Piano Series. Ravel Sonatine; Schumann Fantasie in C, Op.17; Chopin Fantasie Op.49; Nocturne in E min, Op posth; Nocturne in C sharp min, Op.posth; Polonaise Op.53. £12, £10, £8, £6 — Harrison/Parrott Ltd/SBC

Fri 12 Mar 7.45 — MOSTLY MOZART CONCERTO FESTIVAL London Soloists Chamber Orchestra, David Josefowitz (cond) Schubert Introduction & Rondo Concertante; Sym No.5; Mozart Vln Conc, K.219; Clarinet Conc. £12, £10, £8, £6 — LSCO

PURCELL ROOM

Mon 8 Mar 8.00 — ARDITTI SCHOENBERG CYCLE Arditti String Quartet. Webern Five Movements for String Quartet, Op.5; Berg Lyric Suite; Schoenberg String Quartet No.1, Op.7. £10, £8, £5 — SBC

Thu 11 Mar 8.00 — ARDITTI SCHOENBERG CYCLE Arditti String Quartet. Webern Langsamer Satz; Schoenberg String Quartet No.4, Op.37, Zemlinsky String Quartet No.2, Op.15. £10, £8, £5 — SBC

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL — THUR 11 MAR at 7.30 pm

THE BACH CHOIR
HAYDN
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LESLEY GARRETT MARTYN HILL
WILLARD WHITE
English Chamber Orchestra
SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS
conductor

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL WED 24 MARCH at 7.30pm
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BARBICAN HALL — TUE 9 MARCH at 7.30 pm

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BEETHOVEN - TIPPETT SERIES
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STEPHEN KOVACEVICH

TIPPETT	Fanfare for Brass
BEETHOVEN	Piano Concerto No.1
BEETHOVEN	Overture 'The Ruins of Athens'
TIPPETT	Symphony No.2

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Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

BARBICAN HALL
MONDAY 8 MARCH at 7.30 pm
ELGAR ……… Introduction & Allegro for Strings
ELGAR ……… Sea Pictures
ELGAR ……… Symphony No.2
SIR CHARLES MACKERRAS cond
SARAH WALKER soloist
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH at 7.30 pm
BEETHOVEN ……… Overture, Coriolan
MAXWELL DAVIES ……… Worldes Blis
MAXWELL DAVIES ……… Sir Charles: His Pavan (Lon Prem)
BEETHOVEN ……… Symphony No.5
SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES cond
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VERDI & PUCCINI OPERA GALA

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PRO MUSICA CHORUS LONDON CONCERT CHOIR
FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS
Soprano: *CAROL SMITH* Tenor: *ANTHONY MEE*
Baritone: *ARWEL HUW MORGAN*
VERDI Overture THE FORCE OF DESTINY, Patria oppressa MACBETH, Di Provenza, Sempre libera LA TRAVIATA, Anvil Chorus IL TROVATORE, La donna e mobile RIGOLETTO, Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves NABUCCO, Friendship Duet DON CARLOS, Eri tu UN BALLO IN MASCHERA
PUCCINI Musetta's Waltz, Che gelida manina, O Mimi LA BOHEME, Intermezzo MANON LESCAUT, E lucevan le stelle, Te Deum TOSCA, One fine day, Humming Chorus MADAM BUTTERFLY
Grand March AIDA
Nessun dorma & Final Scene TURANDOT
£8.50 £12.50 £15.50 £18.50 £21.50 — 071-928 8800

at the BARBICAN
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Conductor: *DAVID COLEMAN* Piano: *IAN JONES*
Mendelssohn ……… OVERTURE 'FINGAL'S CAVE'
Beethoven ……… PIANO CONCERTO No.5 'EMPEROR'
Elgar ……… POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE No 4
Vaughan Williams ……… FANTASIA ON GREENSLEEVES
Johann Strauss ……… RADETZKY MARCH
Johann Strauss ……… TALES FROM THE VIENNA WOODS
Sibelius ……… FINLANDIA
Mussorgsky … PROMENADE & THE GREAT GATE OF KIEV from Pictures at an Exhibition
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at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL
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PRO MUSICA CHORUS GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION
Cond: *DAVID COLEMAN* Ten: *BONAVENTURA BOTTONE*
MENDELSSOHN Overture, Fingal's Cave, DONIZETTI Una furtiva lagrima, ORFF O Fortuna *Carmina Burana*, VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Fantasia on Greensleeves, DUKAS The Sorcerer's Apprentice, PUCCINI E lucevan le stelle, VERDI Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves, La donna è mobile WAGNER The Ride of the Valkyries, HANDEL Hallelujah Chorus *Messiah*, KHACHATURIAN Sabre Dance, JOHANN STRAUSS Radetzky March, RAVEL Bolero, *VERDI Grand March *AIDA*, PUCCINI Nessun dorma*
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Ton't 6 March 7.30pm	GERSHWIN From Broadway to Porgy, BBC Conc. Orch. Robin Stapleton cond., Cynthia Clarey, Damon Evans soloists Wayne Marshall piano. Lady Be Good, variations on "I Got Rhythm", excerpts Porgy & Bess £21.50 £19.50 £17.50 £12.50 £9.50 R. Gubbay Ltd in assoc. BBC Radio 2 & the Daily Telegraph
Tue 9 March 7.30pm	BEETHOVEN AND TIPPETT BBC Symphony Orch. David Atherton cond., Stephen Kovacevich piano. Tippett Fanfare for Brass Beethoven Piano Concerto No 1, Ov. Ruins of Athens; Tippett Symphony No.2 £9 (concs £4) BBC Radio 3 FM
Sun/Wed 14/17 March 7.30pm	PETER GRIMES Concert performance. Festival of Britten London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Mstislav Rostropovich cond.; Ben Heppner Peter Grimes, Nancy Gustafson, Bryn Terfel soloists £5-£28 14/3 SPONSORED BY PETER STUYVESANT FOUNDATION
Mon 15 March 7.30pm	ST PETERSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Alexander Dmitriev cond., Maxim Fedotov violin. Tchaikovsky Suite Romeo and Juliet Glazunov Violin Concerto Rachmaninov Symphony No. 3 £20 £15 £12 £9 £7 IMG Artists Europe
Tue 16 March 7.30pm	THE NASH ENSEMBLE Festival of Britten Ian Brown cond., Joan Rodgers, Jean Rigby soloists. Britten Sword in the Stone (1939) Debussy Sonata for flute, viola and harp Shostakovich Seven Romances on Poems of Alexander Blok Ravel Piano Trio Britten Phaedra £5 £7 £9 £12 LSO Ltd.
Thu 18 March 7.30pm	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Festival of Britten Oliver Knussen cond., Mstislav Rostropovich cello. Britten Pas de Six from The Prince of the Pagodas Sapiron Concerto for Cello (world premiere) Knussen The Way to Castle Yonder from Higglety, Pigglety, Pop! Britten Cello Symphony £8-£28 LSO Ltd.
	ST GILES CHURCH, CRIPPLEGATE (Barbican Box Office 071 638 8891)
Wed 10 March 8.00pm	JOYFUL COMPANY OF SINGERS - RUSSIAN SPRING. Peter Broadbent cond., Prog. inc. music by Berezovsky, Bortniansky, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Smirnov 1st U.K performance £7 (concs £4)

IMG Artists
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MONDAY 15 MARCH 1993 AT 7.30PM

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ALEXANDER DMITRIEV Conductor
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Saturday 6 March 7.30 pm	ANDREAS HAEFLIGER piano. Piano Series. Gubaidulina: Chaconne. Schumann: Davidsbündlertänze Op 6; Mozart: Sonata in F K332; Debussy: Images (Book I); Liszt: Mephisto Waltz. £10, £8, £6, £4 — HoM. Outstanding Young Artists sponsored by Marks & Spencer
Sunday 7 March 4.00 pm NB: starting time	ALEXANDER BAILLIE cello, JEREMY MENUHIN piano. Mendelssohn: Variations Concertantes Op 17; Mark Anthony Turnage: Sleep on (3 lullabies) (London premiere); Debussy: Estampes. Cello Sonata in D minor; César Franck: Sonata in A. £11, £9, £7, £5 — Baillie Music Management International
Monday 8 March 7.30 pm	VELLINGER QUARTET. Haydn: String Quartet in C Op.54 No.2; Gubaidulina: Quartet No.3; Beethoven: Quartet in E minor Op 59 No 2 Razumovsky. £10, £8, £6, £4 — Sue Lubbock Concert Management
Tuesday 9 March 7.30 pm	THE ENGLISH CONCERT. Early Music & Baroque Series. Trevor Pinnock director, harpsichord; Paul Goodwin oboe; Mark Bennett trumpet. Telemann: Suite in G minor Darmstadt Suite in D. JS Bach: Harpsichord Concerto in E BWV1053. CPE Bach: Symphony No.3 in C. £15.00, £12.50, £10.50 (all others sold)
Wednesday 10 March 7.30 pm	ROMANESCA. Early Music & Baroque Series. Andrew Manze violin, Nigel North theorbo, archlute, John Toll harpsichord, organ. THE DEVIL'S TRILL. Tartini: The Devil's Trill Sonata & sonatas, toccatas, canzonas, variations & dance music by Cima, Castello, Piccinini, Marini, Vitali & Frescobaldi. £10, £8, £6, £4 — EMN
Thursday 11 March 7.30 pm	SARAH WALKER mezzo soprano, ROGER VIGNOLES piano. Song Recital Series. SARAH WALKER 25th ANNIVERSARY. Haydn: Cantata Arianna a Naxos; Schumann: Maria Stuart Lieder Op 135 5 Lieder; Poulenc: 4 Songs; Britten: A Charm of Lullabies; Dvořák: Gypsy Songs. £15.00, £12.50, £10.00 (all others sold) — HoM
Friday 12 March 7.30 pm	GUILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE. Chamber Music Series. Robert Salter director, Michala Petri recorder. Corelli: Concerto grosso Op 6 No.5; Telemann: Recorder Concerto in C. Stravinsky: Concerto in D; Christiansen: Danse Suite for recorder & strings (London premiere); Tchaikovsky: Serenade in C Op 48. £12, £10, £8, £6 — HoM
Saturday 13 March 7.30 pm	STEPHEN HOUGH piano. Piano Series. Byrd: Pavan & Galliard; Beethoven: Sonata in C minor Op 111; Corigliano: Etude Fantasy; Chopin: 3 Mazurkas, Barcarolle in F sharp Op 60; Halévy/Liszt: Réminiscences de La Juive Fantaisie brillante. £11, £9, £7, £5 — HoM

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OPERA GALA NIGHT

Starring JOSEPHINE BARSTOW *soprano*
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ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

MOZART
The Marriage of Figaro Overture
Piano Concerto No.23 K488
Horn Concerto No.3 in E flat, K447
Symphony No.41 (Jupiter)
ANDREW CONSTANTINE conductor
PHILIP FOWKE piano FRANK LLOYD horn
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Mascagni ……… INTERMEZZO (CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA)
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Ravel ……… BOLERO
Johann Strauss ……… MORNING PAPERS WALTZ
Elgar ……… POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE MARCH NO.1
Tchaikovsky … 1812 OV. (CANNON & MORTAR EFFECTS)
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
FRASER GOULDING cond LORA DIMITROVA piano
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SUNDAY 16 MAY at 7.30 pm
CLASSICAL GALA NIGHT
A Thrilling Evening of
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Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs apply B.O.
NOW BOOKING UNTIL OCT 93
FOR TELEPHONE POSTAL BOOKINGS/PERSONAL CALLERS
071 494 5060 BKG FEE

DUCHESS cc 071 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee) Groups 071-413 3321
Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30
NOW IN ITS 2ND YEAR
"A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std
DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
"Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORKS 071 836 5122 cc 836 9837/497 9977/071 344 4444 Grps 930 6123
NIGEL DAVENPORT
PETER CAPALDI
CHARLOTTE ATTENBOROUGH
"Clive Exton's stage version maintains the suspense... a master of the craft" F.T
The Stage Premiere of AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
MURDER IS EASY
"Enough red herrings to feed the five thousand" D. Mail
Eves 8.00 Mats Thu & Sat 3.00

FORTUNE BO & CC 071 836 2238 CC 344 4444/497 9977/379 9901 (24hr/bkg fee)
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER" Guardian
"A REAL THRILL" S..Times

GARRICK BO/CC 494 5085/497 9977 (no fee) 071 344 4444 (fee)
"The outstanding comedy hit of the season" S. Exp.
PAUL BOWN — IVAN KAYE
ON THE PISTE
JOHN GODBER'S
New hit comedy
"HYSTERICALLY FUNNY" Today
"In a long while since I've seen so many show stopping laughs" D.M
Mon-Sat 8 mats Thu 3 Sat 4

GLOBE BO/CC 071 494 5067 (bkg fee) 071 344 4444/497 9977
"Peter Hall's haunting and revelatory production" E Std
Anna Carteret — Michael Denison
Hannah Gordon — Dulcie Gray
Martin Shaw — David Yelland
OSCAR WILDE'S
AN IDEAL HUSBAND
"A triumph... audiences are advised to beat a path to the Globe" S. Times
Eves 7.45 Mats Thu 3 Sat 4

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 071 930 8800 (inc cc no bkg fee) 071 344 4444 (with bkg fee)
ROBERT LINDSAY
"SUPERB" D Exp
"A SHINING STAR" Indp
as
CYRANO DE BERGERAC
"SPECTACULAR SWASHBUCKLING..."

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
NOW BOOKING TO MARCH 1994
APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS

LON. PALLADIUM 24hr Bo cc £1 per Tkt Svce chg 071 494 5020 497 9977/071 344 4444 Groups 494 5456
Andrew Lloyd Webber's "exuberant new production" Std of "Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's Palladium Blockbuster" Gdn
JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
Starring PHILLIP SCHOFIELD
Dir by STEVEN PIMLOTT
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
NOW BOOKING TO MAY 1 '93
QUEUE DAILY FOR RETURNS

LYRIC, Shaftes Ave Bo & cc 071 494 5045 cc 071 344 4444 All tel lines 24hr/7 days (bkg fee) cc 497 9977 Grps 071 930 6123
The Joint Never Stops Jumpin
FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE
THE OLIVIER AWARD

NATIONAL THEATRE SO 071 928 2252 Grps 071 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977
OLIVIER
Today 2.00 & 7.15 AN INSPECTOR CALLS by J.B. Priestley Mon 7.15 TRELAWNY OF THE WELLS by Arthur Wing Pinero
LYTTELTON
Rodgers and Hammerstein's CAROUSEL Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.15 Day seats and returns only
COTTESLOE
Today 2.30 & 7.00 MR A's AMAZING MAZE PLAYS by Alan Ayckbourn Mon 7.30 BILLY LIAR a comedy by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall

NEW LONDON Drury Lane BO 071 405 0072 CC 071 404 4079 24hr 344 4444. Groups 930 6123 Tkts from: Tower Records Ldn.
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

Bill Kenwright presents
The Almeida Theatre Company production
Penelope Wilton
MAGNIFICENT — Malcolm Rutherford, Financial Times
STUNNING — Clive Hirschhorn, Sunday Express
Linus Roache — WONDERFUL — Paul Taylor, Independent
Nicholas Jones — SUPERLATIVE — Nicholas de Jongh, Evening Standard
in
THE DEEP BLUE SEA
by
TERENCE RATTIGAN
KAREL REISZ'S MASTERLY PRODUCTION IS A REVELATION
John Peter, Sunday Times
AN OVERWHELMING DRAMATIC EXPERIENCE
Charles Spencer, Daily Telegraph
A MODERN CLASSIC
Michael Billington, The Guardian
REDUCED PRICE PREVIEWS FROM 16 MARCH
OPENS 22 MARCH AT 7PM
Apollo Theatre
Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 • A Stoll Moss Theatre
BOOK TODAY ON 071-494 5070 • C.C.: 071-379 4444

BILL KENWRIGHT PRESENTS
JUDI DENCH — MICHAEL PENNINGTON
JEREMY NORTHAM
IN THE RSC PRODUCTION OF
THE GIFT OF THE GORGON
'UNMISSABLE' — International Herald Tribune
'PETER SHAFFER'S BRILLIANT NEW PLAY.' — John Peter, Sunday Times
'PETER HALL'S ELECTRICALLY CHARGED DIRECTION INSPIRES FINE PERFORMANCES FROM A FIRST RATE CAST' — Clive Hirschhorn, Sunday Express
'JUDI DENCH REMINDS US WHY SHE IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST ACTRESSES' — Michael Billington, The Guardian
'A COMPLEX, WELL-PRODUCED PIECE OF THEATRE WITH A ROLLS-ROYCE COMPANY AND CAST' — Steve Grant, Time Out
WYNDHAM'S THEATRE
CHARING CROSS, LONDON WC2
LIMITED SEASON FOR 12 WEEKS ONLY
REDUCED PRICE PREVIEWS FROM 18 MARCH • PRESS NIGHT 23 MARCH AT 7PM
BOX OFFICE & CREDIT CARDS: 071 867 1116 C.C: 071 344 4444

[illegible] CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; [illegible] 3.00 Robert Booth 7.00 Authentic Performance 8.00 Classic FM Concert: Berlin RSO under Schnerdt performs Mozart (Symphony No 36).

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BBC1

7.25 News and weather (3691631)
7.30 Henry's Cat. Feline fun (r) (3215902) **7.35 Wiz Bang** (s) (3669362) **7.50 Littl' Bits**. Animated adventures with the forest pixies (r) (8273693) **8.10 Eggs 'n' Baker** Cheryl Baker visits America (s) (5162780) **8.35 Tom and Jerry: Greatest Hits** (r) (4171612)
9.00 Going Live! Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield are joined by award-winning journalist, John Simpson, wildlife film-maker Simon King and Richard Wilson, the star of the hit comedy *One Foot in the Grave* (s) (29526544)
12.12 Weather (7466032)
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up includes (subject to alteration): **12.20** Football Focus. Includes a preview of the weekend's FA Cup Sixth Round ties; **1.00** News; **1.05**, **1.35** and **2.05** Racing from Newbury: Eastleigh Handicap Hurdle (**1.10**) Berkshire Hurdle (**1.40**), Rocking Horse Nursery Handicap Chase (**2.10**); **1.20**, **1.50** and **2.20** Rugby Union. Live coverage of the Save and Prosper international in the Five Nations Championship match between England and Scotland from Twickenham, plus highlights of the Digital international between Wales and Ireland from Cardiff. Northern Ireland. Wales v Ireland live, Wales: Wales v Ireland live **4.40** Final Score (22875631)
5.15 News with Andrew Harvey. Weather (2957032)
5.25 Regional news and sport (1892167). Wales (to 6.05): Wales on Saturday
5.35 That's Showbusiness. Jonathon Morris and Eve Ferret take on Geoffrey Hughes and Kevin Day in the celebrity world of entertainment panel game presented by Mike Smith. (Ceefax) (s) (983457)
6.05 Noel's House Party Noel Edmonds introduces fun and games and presents athlete Kriss Akabusi with a "Gotcha Oscar" (s) (102438)



Ally Sheedy and Steve Guttenberg (7.00pm)

7.00 Film: Short Circuit (1986) Steve Guttenberg and Ally Sheedy star in this likable comedy adventure following the antics of a $11 million military robot who goes AWOL after it is struck by lightning. Directed by John Badham. (Ceefax) (62984099)
8.35 Birds of a Feather. Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson star as the Essex girls with jailed husbands. Their neighbour Dorien (Lesley Joseph) comes to the rescue when Sharon and Tracey's central heating breaks down (r). (Ceefax) (s) (796099)
9.05 News and sport with Michael Buerk. Weather (478457)
9.25 That's Life! Esther Rantzen and her team of intrepid reporters try to right more wrongs. (Ceefax) (s) (401322)
10.05 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of this afternoon's FA Cup quarter-finals. The commentators are John Motson and Barry Davies with expert comment from Alan Hansen and Trevor Brooking (s) (4619032)
11.15 Film: The FBI Story — Alvin Karpis (1974). Exciting gangster story, with a strong period feel, starring Robert Foxworth as thirties hoodlum Karpis and Harris Yulin as FBI boss J. Edgar Hoover Directed by Marvin Chomsky. (Ceefax) (917525). Wales: That's Showbusiness 11.45 Film: The FBI Story — Alvin Karpis 1.25 Weather
12.55am Weather (9926020)

BBC2

6.40 Open University: Technology (4677419) **7.05** Maths (3152419) **7.30** Mental Handicap (7244032) **7.55** Oceanography (8294186) **8.20** Biology Form and Function (5166506) **8.45** Language and Literature (4175438) **9.10** Linkage Mechanisms (3008902) **9.35** Earthquakes (8437612) **10.00** Maarten Van Heemskerck (7546612) **10.25** Computing (7974693) **10.50** Humanity and the Scaffold (7557964) **11.15** Society and Social Science (4463612) **12.05** Education: Curriculum and Learning (3200235) **12.30** Social Problems and Welfare (97384490) **12.55** Modern Art: Musee D'Orsay (1484525) **1.20** Genetics (28234051) **1.45** Learning for All (35134186) **2.10** Developing World: the Poverty Complex (79517631) **2.35** The Enlightenment: Reason and Progress (9780235)
3.00 A Piece of Paradise. Julian Pettifer returns to Kingcombe in Dorset five years after 600 acres of land, undisturbed by modern farming and rich in wildflowers, was auctioned off (7051)
3.30 Film: Majorie Morningstar (1958). Natalie Wood plays a teenager in search of romance in a patchy adaptation of Herman Wouk's novel *Winds of War*. With Gene Kelly. Directed by Irving Rapper (99675032)
5.35 Late Again. Highlights from last week's *The Late Show* (s) (753475)
6.25 Scrutiny. The work of parliamentary select committees. (Ceefax) (647419)
6.55 News with Andrew Harvey. Sport and weather (898341)
7.10 Sounds of the Seventies featuring Carole King, James Taylor and Joan Armatrading (s) (804308)
7.45 Fine Cut. See Choice (146148)
9.15 Moving Pictures. See Choice (539544)



Trumpet call: Denzel Washington (10.05pm)

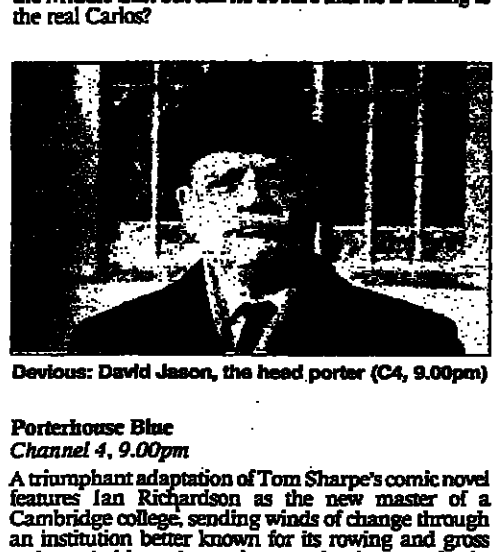
10.05 Film: Mo' Better Blues (1990). Spike Lee's tough story of a self-obsessed jazz trumpeter, played by Denzel Washington. His single-mindedness towards music leads to conflict between the two women in his life. With Joie Lee and Cynda Williams (13353438)
12.10am Film: Big Parade (1986). A distinguished offering from China following a group of young soldiers hoping for a place in the National Day parade. Directed by Chen Kaige. In Chinese with English subtitles (118228). Ends at **1.50**

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CHOICE

Fine Cut: To the Ends of the Earth
BBC2, 7.45pm

The writer David Yallop spent much of the eighties in single-minded pursuit of the world's most wanted man. The quest took Yallop to 20 countries. The book has just been published and here is the film. Carlos the Jackal first surfaced in 1975 as a chubby face behind dark glasses, a hit man supposedly trained by the KGB. In fact he was a Venezuelan who threw in his lot with the Palestinian terrorists. Most of his big operations were bungled. He tried to kill the head of Marks & Spencer, but happily the gun jammed. He helped to plan the Israeli plane hijack, only to see the passengers rescued at Entebbe. Yallop's trail leads to the Middle East but can he be sure that he is talking to the real Carlos?



Devious: David Jason, the head porter (C4, 9.00pm)

Porterhouse Blue
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A triumphant adaptation of Tom Sharpe's comic novel features Ian Richardson as the new master of a Cambridge college, sending winds of change through an institution better known for its rowing and gross eating habits than its academic standards. Contraceptive machines and women students are just two of the innovations as the old guard fights to keep the comfortable old ways. First shown in 1987, the series was scripted by Malcolm Bradbury and was a big advance on his previous Sharpe project, *Blott on the Landscape*. Barbara Jefford shines as the master's liberated wife and David Jason enjoys himself as the devious head porter.

Moving Pictures
BBC2, 10.05pm

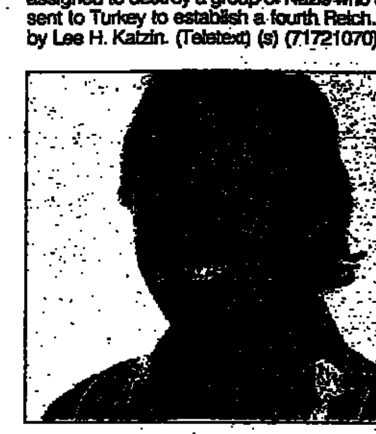
Yet another piece about Spike Lee's *Malcolm X* seems unnecessary, though it does serve to trail tonight's showing of Lee's *Mo' Better Blues*. It also highlights Lee's homages to other Hollywood directors. Watch *Malcolm X* and spot the quotes from Scorsese, Spielberg and Wilder. The more worthwhile item offers a potted history of recent Chinese cinema by charting the fortunes of its leading directors, Chen Kaige and Zhang Yimou. Both established themselves in the early eighties. Then came the Tiananmen Square massacre and the pair were put in a curious position. They were able to go on making films, only to have them banned by the Chinese authorities. Chen's *The Big Parade* completes tonight's double bill.

Adventures: The Africa Passion
Channel 4, 8.00pm

John Heminway is tonight's adventurer, travelling 12,000 miles through Kenya and Tanzania. His aim is to discover why westerners are so passionate about a continent to which they have no claim. Heminway is no exception. He first went to Africa 12 years ago, on a journey expected to last one month. He stayed for two years. During this latest trip he explores his theme by talking to an assortment of missionaries, snake catchers, misanthropes and plain eccentrics. He meets other outsiders who share his passion and finds the source of the obsession during a spectacular hike along the edge of the Serengeti plains. **Peter Waymark**

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV (8147070)
9.25 What's Up Doc? with Andy Crane, Pat Sharp and Yvette Fielding (57528964)
11.30 The ITV Chart Show featuring the Bluebells performing their hit "Young at Heart" (r) (s) (75631)
12.30 Speakeasy. Emma Forbes, with Dr Mark Salter, presents the first of a new series aimed at teenagers. A studio audience of 11 to 17-year-olds discuss problems which are pertinent to their age group. Today, Neil Kinnock reveals how he was bullied as a youngster (s) (97709)
1.00 News and weather (87390506) **1.05 London Today**. (Teletext) Weather (87399877)
1.10 Movies, Movies, Movies. Includes a preview of the fantasy comedy *Toys* starring Robin Williams (11390322)
1.40 WCW Worldwide Wrestling from America (2326877)
2.30 Snooker. Nick Owen presents live coverage of the first part of the final of the Wickes British Open (52538728)
4.40 News, sports results and weather (3247506)
5.00 London Tonight and sport. Weather (Teletext) (2987273)
5.10 New Baywatch. The perfectly formed lifeguards of Los Angeles County parade the beaches hoping to avert disaster. C J's life is in danger. (Teletext) (s) (9350506)
6.00 Blind Date. Cilla Black plays Cupid to more hopeful contestants looking for romance and discovers how last week's winners fared on their dates. (Teletext) (s) (42588)
7.00 Barrymore. More members of the public show off their hidden talents after being plucked from obscurity by Michael Barrymore (396235)
7.45 Film: The Dirty Dozen: The Fatal Mission (1988). Telly Savalas and Ernest Borgnine in the feeble third sequel to the sixties war classic. The band are assigned to destroy a group of Nazis who are being sent to Turkey to establish a fourth Reich. Directed by Lee H. Katzin. (Teletext) (s) (71721070)



What's on the box? Chris Tarrant (9.20pm)

9.20 Tarrant's 10 Years On TV. Chris Tarrant takes another irreverent look at the world's television over the past decade (s) (189051)
9.50 News and weather (321235)
10.10 The Big Fight — Live! Jim Rosenthal introduces live coverage of Nigel Benn's defence of his WBC super-middleweight title against the former champion Italian Mauro Galvano from the Scottish Exhibition Centre in Glasgow. The commentators are Reg Gutteridge and Jim Watt (s) (190362)
11.00 Snooker. Nick Owen introduces the concluding frames of the best-of-19 frames final of the Wickes British Open (95780)
1.00am The Big E. Magazine programme for and about young Europeans (9340194)
2.05 Basketball: NBA Jam Session introduced by Alton Byrd (2152858)
3.10 The New Music. The Canadian music scene (5098858)
4.20 Rock Sport featuring French skier Philipe Goitschel (85951858)
4.30 BPM. The latest news from the world of dance music (s) (7826910)
5.30 ITN Morning News (94910). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (r) (s) (9520803) **6.25 Dennis** (4286896) **6.35 Alfred J Kwak**. Animated adventures of a musical duck (4670506) **7.00 Mr Men**. Cartoon (3672506) **7.05 Kid 'n' Play** (r) (6834099) **7.35 Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors** (r) (7278099) **8.00 Saved by the Bell**. Teenage adventures (67070) **8.30 High 5**. Free-diving (66341) **9.00 News** (9842186) **9.15 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line** (9938964)
10.00 Trans World Sport. International sport (73780)
11.00 Gazzetta Football Italia presented by Gary Bloom and James Richardson. Paul Gascoigne looks at Lazio's chances of beating Parma (93544)
12.00 Road Dreams. The fourth episode of Elliott Bristow's six-part video diary following his 12-year trip across America. Today he travels from Rhode Island to San Francisco (s) (77457)
12.30 Songs and Memories. President of the Pakistan Association for Mental Health, Professor Haroon Ahmed, talks to Zarmine Sarafaz (88051)
1.00 Film: Shopworn Angel (1938, b/w). Romantic tearjerker starring James Stewart as a naive Texan soldier en route to France in the first world war who falls in love with worldly actress Margaret Sullavan. Directed by H.C. Potter (43081612)
2.35 Film: The Mortal Storm (1940, b/w). Polished wartime flagwaver starring Frank Morgan as a Jewish professor in Nazi Germany whose political views bring him to the attention of the regime. With James Stewart and Margaret Sullavan. Directed by Frank Borzage (44721934)
4.30 American Gambit. A quirky documentary from 1989 showing a chess match between world champion Gary Kasparov and a group of young New Yorkers (r) (5450896)
5.05 Brookside Omnibus (r). (Teletext) (s) (6314308)
6.30 Right to Reply. A discussion on television violence (Teletext) (s) (709)
7.00 A Week in Politics presented by Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley (2457)
8.00 Adventures. (Teletext) (s) See Choice (8877)
9.00 Porterhouse Blue (r) See Choice (1341)
10.00 Saturday Zoo. Jonathan Ross is joined by actor Christopher Walken and Paul Weller (s) (1728)
11.00 Ready Steady Go! (b/w) featuring the Rolling Stones, Cilla Black, the Who, Dave Clark Five and Marvin Gaye (394326)
11.40 Adult Oprah: Set Free to Kill Again. Oprah Winfrey interviews convicted murderers in prison, who killed again while on parole (s) (390475)



Lady vanishes: Vanessa Redgrave (12.30am)

12.30am Film: Agatha (1978). Vanessa Redgrave plays the author Agatha Christie in a handsomely-staged reconstruction of her famous disappearance in 1926. Dustin Hoffman stars as a journalist determined to track her down. Directed by Michael Apted (13755)
2.30 The Word (r) (s) (68216). Ends at **3.30**

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am Danger Bay (52362) **6.30** Rin Tin Tin (90893) **7.00** Fun Factory (4778380) **12.00** WWF Superstars (30438) **1.00pm** Rich Man, Poor Man (49186) **2.00** The Addams Family (2902) **2.30** Facts of Life (1902) **3.00** Cartoons (45836) **4.00** Knights and Warriors (57631) **5.00** WWF Mania (2761) **6.00** Beverly Hills 90210 (29332) **7.00** Class of '96 (73187) **8.00** Unsolved Mysteries (82815) **9.00** Cops I (53815) **9.30** Cops II (31167) **10.00** WWF Challenge (72435) **11.00** Saturday Night Live (21341) **12.00** Skytext

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (22344) **6.30** News and Business Report (930612) **9.30** Nightline (48457) **10.30** *Financial Times* West of Moscow (17099) **11.30** Getaway (11457) **12.30pm** Fashion TV (88341) **1.30** The Reporters (89070) **2.30** Nightline (13254) **3.30** Those Were the Days (15983) **4.30** Getaway (9780) **5.00** Live at Five (87709) **6.30** Fashion TV (21273) **7.30** The Reporters (7709) **9.30** *Financial Times* West of Moscow (12186) **10.30** The Reporters (32728) **11.30** Fashion TV (95709) **12.30am** Getaway (32804) **1.30** *Financial Times* West of Moscow (20552) **2.30** Fashion TV (48397) **3.30** Target (43842) **4.30** *Financial Times* West of Moscow (40658) **5.30-6.00** The Reporters (25804)

SKY MOVIES PLUS

6.00am Showcase (43322)
8.00 Pocket Money (1972) Western with Paul Newman and Lee Marvin (39524)
10.00 Primo Baby (1989): A teenage girl trains a blind racehorse (22419)
12.00 Zelig (1983) Woody Allen as a human chameleon (96167)
2.00pm Brenda Starr (1990): Brooke Shields as a comic-book heroine (56490)
4.00 A Girl of the Limberlost (1990): Rural drama with Heather Fairfield (7693)
6.00 Look Who's Talking Too (1990). Roseanne Arnold is the voice of toddler Mikey's new baby sister (78254)
8.00 Hudson Hawk (1991): Bruce Willis plays a cat burglar (89099)
10.00 New Jack City (1991): Judd Nelson and Ice-T pursue a drug lord (934167)
11.40 Velvet Dreams (1987): Erotic drama with Kathy Shower (394099)
1.05am A Row of Crows (1991): Sheriff John Beck must solve a murder case without using Katharine Ross's evidence (800113)
2.45 Prison (1988): The spirit of an executed prisoner seeks revenge (484910)
4.25 The Ambulance (1990): Sick people are abducted (824200). Ends at **6.00**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Klondike Fever (1979). Rod Steiger plays writer Jack London (1693)
6.00 Absence of Malice (1980): Reporter Sally Field slanders Paul Newman (41506)
8.00 Lookin' To Get Out (1982): Jon Voight and Burt Young play gamblers (46051)
10.00 A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984) Robert Englund stars as Freddy Krueger (96254) Ends at **11.30**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.30am Hands Across the Table (1935, b/w) Carole Lombard has to pick Fred MacMurray or Ralph Bellamy (21612)
8.00 Another Time, Another Place (1958) Wartime romance with Lana Turner (39506)
10.00 Support Your Local Sheriff! (1969) Western spoof with James Garner (13761)
12.00 The Buster Keaton Story (1957) Biopic starring Donald O'Connor (94709)
2.00pm Inspector Clouseau (1968) Alan Arkin stars as the French detective (54032)
4.00 Matters of the Heart (1990) Teenage prodigy Christopher Gartin has an affair with concert pianist Jane Seymour (5235)
6.00 Father, Son and the Mistress (1992). Millionaire Jack Lemmon relinquishes his fortune to undo his family (74696)
8.00 Awakenings (1990): Robin Williams brings Robert De Niro back to life (75939964)
10.05 The Hot Spot (1990) Don Johnson as a charismatic drifter (56450506)
12.20am Scissors (1991). Psychological thriller with Sharon Stone (124804)
2.00 Not of This World (1991) A lifties-style science fiction tale (140929)
3.35 Sixteen Candles (1984). Molly Ringwald has a schoolgirl crush (9697342)
5.05 The Flame of New Orleans (1941, b/w) Marlene Dietrich stars as the new girl in town (7104129) Ends at **6.25**

SKY SPORTS

6.30am The Boot Room (34341) **7.00** The Big League (95637780) **9.15** USPGA Golf: Doral Ryder Open (14078186) **11.30** Sky Soccer Weekend Update (55815) **12.30pm** Gillette Sports (18815) **1.00** Sports Saturday (4181070) **6.00** Goal — The Fifa Quiz (162964) **8.30** USPGA Golf: Doral Ryder Open (183457) **11.00** ATP Tennis (38438) **1.00-3.00am** Ringside (46587)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Ford Ski Report (59780) **8.30** Nordic Skiing (81693) **9.30** Biathlon (63047) **10.00** Alpine Skiing (68438) **11.00** Nordic Skiing (91099) **11.30** Biathlon (5206964) **11.55** Nordic Skiing (54859419) **2.00pm** Biathlon (44099) **3.30** Ice Hockey (68099) **4.30** Basketball (5790) **5.00** Alpine Skiing (9457) **6.00** Nordic Skiing (11902) **7.00** Biathlon (38885) **8.00** Indoor Motor Trial (19983) **9.00** Boxing (12070) **11.00** Indoor Motor Trial (67167) **12.00-1.00am** Motorsport (50129)

UK GOLD

6.00am Rainbow (52487051) **6.15** Button Moon (52482506) **6.30** Michael Bentine's Potty Time (9296612) **7.00** Hot Dog (2623709) **7.30** Owl TV (2635544) **8.00** Lassie (1242254) **8.30** Rentaghost (1241525) **9.00** The Raccoons (1232877) **9.30** Bucky O'Hare (6443051) **10.00** Jem (2237964) **10.30** Dungeons and Dragons (1221761) **11.00** Film: Kim (1950) starring Errol Flynn (4075099) **1.00pm** Film: The Boy with Green Hair (1948) starring Dean Stockwell and Pat O'Brien (53000761) **2.20** Bless This House (92683506) **2.45** EastEnders (21641896) **5.30** Swallows and Amazons Forever! (5870457) **6.00** Campion (5462186) **7.00** Bless This House (2177983) **7.30** Till Death Us Do Part (5857506) **8.00** Bergerac (2921235) **9.00** The Lotus Eaters (2941099) **10.00** Film: Carry On England (1976) starring Kenneth Connor (5025651) **11.45** Frankie Howerd: Then Churchill Said to Me (7971315) **12.15** Happy Families (5921026) **12.45-2.00am** In Concert: Thomas Dolby — Live Wireless (55553262)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words (89964) **6.30** Cartoon Classics (15815) **7.00** The Best of Jack in the Box (35167) **7.30** David the Gnome (47902) **8.00** Storybreak (75326) **8.30** Barnyard Commandos (25557) **9.00** Mr Bogus (38612) **10.00** The Smoggies (43186) **11.00** Bravestarr (23322) **12.00** Cartoon Classics (1529083) **12.55pm** Ipsitang (3553099) **1.20** Pugwall (9251645) **2.15** Animals in Action (365506) **2.45** Wonder Why? (3529693) **3.10** Under the Mountain (6057001) **3.35** Round The Twist (4526457) **4.05** The Guys Next Door (5332273) **4.30** Shadows (3720) **5.00** Just Jo (5296) **5.30** Fifteen (4032) **6.00-7.00** Fame (35506)



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RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Neale James (FM only until **6.00am**) **7.00** Gary Davies **10.00** Dave Lee Travis **1.00pm** Adrian Juste **2.00** The Record Producers: Bob Clearmountain **3.00** Johnnie Walker **6.00** The Saturday Rock Show **8.30** The Knowledge: Alan Freeman on sacred cows in the music business **9.00** Andy Kershaw **11.00** John Peel (FM only from **12.00**) **2.00-4.00am** Lynn Parsons (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Bill Rennells **6.00** Barbara Sturgeon **8.05** Brian Matthew. Sounds of the Sixties **10.00** Anne Robinson **12.00** Brian Hayes on Saturday **1.30pm** For Better or for Worse (r) **2.00** Ronnie Hilton: Sounds of the Fifties **3.00** Steve Race **4.00** Wired for Sound: The Cliff Richard Story (r) **5.00** Cinema 2 **5.30** Nick Barraclough's New Country **6.00** Dave Willetts in Concert **7.00** I've Heard That Song Before (3/6) **7.30** Gershwin on Broadway **9.30** David Jacobs presents Easy Does It **10.00** Radio 2 Arts Programme **12.05am** Ronnie Hilton (r) **1.00-4.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until **Noon**. **6.00am** World Service: World News **6.09** News About Britain **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Mark Curry's Weekend Edition **9.30** Get Set... **10.30** Tales of the Texas Rangers **11.00** Go! **12.00** Sport on 4 Plus 1 (as Radio 4 at 9.05am) **12.30pm** Sportscall **1.30** Sport on Five with John Inverdale: Rugby Union Calcutta Cup — England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland, Football, FA Cup, Racing from Newbury: **1.40** Berkshire Hurdle **5.00** Sports Report **6.00** Six-O-Six **7.30** Afropop Worldwide **8.30** Le Top **9.30** Nightbeat **10.00** Sports Bulletin **10.15** On the Level, incl **11.00** Sport **12.00-12.10am** News: Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. **4.30am** World Business Report **4.40** Programmes in German **5.30** Europe Today **5.59** Weather **6.00** World and British News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Programmes in French **6.59** Weather **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** People and Politics **8.00** World News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** A Jolly Good Show **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Wordbrief **9.30** Personal View **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** News Summary **10.01** Jazz Now and Then **10.15** Letter from America **10.30** Waveguide **10.40** Book Choice **10.45** From the Weeklies **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Travel News **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **Noon** World News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Multitrack 3 **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** Club 643 **2.15** Personal View **2.30** Sportsworld **3.00** World News **3.15** Sportsworld **4.00** World News **4.10** News About Britain **4.15** BBC English **4.29** News Headlines in French **4.30** Programmes in German **5.00** Programmes in French **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Programmes in German **8.00** World News **8.10** Personal View **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Europe This Weekend **8.45** European Sports News **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World and British News **10.15** Meridian **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** World News **11.05** Words of Faith **11.10** Book Choice **11.15** A Jolly Good Show **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** The Ken Bruce Show **1.00** News Summary **1.01** Play of the Week: In the Native State (2) **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Gods, Guides and Gurus **3.00** World News **3.10** News About Britain **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** From Our Own Correspondent **3.50** Write On **4.00** World News **4.15** Inside the Photograph Album

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Sarah Lucas **9.00** Classic CD Countdown **12.00** Petroc Trelawny **3.00pm** ...

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10-4.40** Snooker (40042631) **5.00-5.10** Anglia News (2987273) **1.00** Hollywood Report (13194) **1.30** Kojak (5471031) **2.25** BPM (5435649) **3.25** The Little Picture Show (9341264) **4.25** The Black Crowes (85950129) **4.35-5.30** The Big E (5826397)

BORDER

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10-4.40** Snooker (40042631) **5.00-5.10** Border News (5457) **1.00** Hollywood Report (13194) **1.30** Kojak (5471031) **2.25** BPM (5435649) **3.25** The Little Picture Show (9341264) **4.25** Black Crowes (85950129) **4.35-5.30** The Big E (5826397)

CENTRAL

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10-4.40** Snooker (40042631) **5.00** Central News (1884148) **5.05-5.10** The Central Match — Goals Extra (1883419) **1.00** Film. Shane (87743262) **3.10** The Twilight Zone (5424378) **3.45** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (7084823) **4.20** America's Top Ten (33329194) **4.45** Jobfinder (9110823) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (2109533)

GRANADA

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10-4.40** Snooker (40042631) **5.00-5.10** Granada News (2987273) **1.00** Hollywood Report (13194) **1.30** Kojak (5471031) **2.25** BPM (5435649) **3.25** The Little Picture Show (9341264) **4.25** Black Crowes (85950129) **4.35-5.30** Big E

HTV WEST

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10-4.40** Snooker (40042631) **5.00-5.10** HTV West News and Sport (2987273) **1.00** Hollywood Report (13194) **1.30** Kojak (5471031) **2.25** BPM (5435649) **3.25** The Little Picture Show (9341264) **4.25** Black Crowes (85950129) **4.35-5.30** The Big E (5826397)

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: **5.00pm-5.10** HTV Wales News and Sport

MERIDIAN

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10** Wrestling (7630475) **1.55-4.40** Snooker (45566952) **1.55** Film: Cold Blood (1766755) **3.20** Basketball (8991723) **4.20** America's Top Ten (75900129) **4.50-5.30** Wrestling

SCOTTISH

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10** Calpstean Planeid (11390322) **1.40** Speaking Our Language (35112964) **2.10** Celebrity Squares (60437099) **2.40-4.40** Snooker (52826308) **5.00** Scotsport Results (5143896) **5.15** Rock Sport (2936780) **5.30** The Box (859051) **5.45-6.00** Scotland Today (148457) **1.00** Film: Chamber of Horrors (975991) **2.50** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (9686552) **3.20** BPM (6314533) **4.15** The Best of (8388674) **5.05-5.30** Jobfinder

TYNE TEES

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10-4.40** Snooker (40042631) **5.00-5.10** Tyne Tees Saturday (2987273) **1.00** Coach (13194) **1.30** The Law and Harry McGraw (5471031) **2.25** BPM (5435649) **3.25** The Little Picture Show (9341264) **4.25** Cue the Music (8275910)

ULSTER

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10** Saturday Sport (87303070) **1.20** Wrestling (4249273) **2.30-4.40** Snooker (52538728) **5.00** UTV Live (1884148) **5.05-5.10** Saturday Sport (1883419) **1.00** Hollywood Report (95780) **1.30** Kojak (5471031) **2.25** BPM (5435649) **3.25** The Little Picture Show (9341264) **4.25** Black Crowes (85950129) **4.35-5.30** Big E

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Anybody Out There (97709) **1.10-4.40** Snooker (40042631) **5.00-5.10** Westcountry Week-end Latest (2987273) **1.00** Hollywood Report (13194) **1.30** Kojak (5471031) **2.25** BPM (5435649) **3.25** The Little Picture Show (9341264) **4.25** Black Crowes (85950129) **4.35-5.30** The Big E (5826397)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: **12.30-1.00** Movies, Movies, Movies (97709) **1.10-4.40** Snooker (40042631) **1.00** Coach (13194) **1.30** The Law and Harry McGraw (5471031) **2.25** BPM (5435649) **3.25** The Little Picture Show (9341264) **4.25** Cue the Music (8275910)

S4C

Starts: **7.00** Mr Men (3672506) **7.05** Kid 'n' Play (6834099) **7.35** Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors (7278099) **8.00** Saved by the Bell (67070) **8.30** High 5 (66341) **9.00** News (9842186) **9.15** Racing: The Morning Line (9938964) **10.00** Trans World Sport (73780) **11.00** Cynhadledd Y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol (91308) **1.00** Gazzetta Football Italia — With Paul Gascoigne (83506) **2.00** Rygbi Pencampwriaeth Y Pum Gwlad (51730693) **4.10** Return of the Saints (3402728) **5.05** Brookside (6314308) **6.30** Magic Roundabout (415167) **6.35** Now You're Talking (993235) **7.00** News (381761) **7.20** Traed Oer (763070) **7.50** I Dir Drygioni (769877) **8.40** Tocyn Tymor (813457) **9.30** Benny Hill (92065) **10.00** Saturday Zoo (1728) **11.00** Ready Steady Go! (394326) **11.40** Adult Oprah (868593) **12.25** Whose Line Is It Anyway? (2503200) **12.55** Close

RADIO 3

6.35am Open University: Language and the Novel
6.55 Weather
7.00 Record Review, with Paul Gunery. Rachmaninov (Four Pieces); Molter (Trumpet Concerto No 2 in D: Guy Touvron); Dvořák (Five Bagatelles, Op 47); Shostakovich (Piano Concerto No 1: Peter Jablonski); Diepenbrock (Lyadische Nacht); Krommer (Flute Quintet in E minor, Op 55: Bruno Meier)
9.00 News
9.05 Record Review continues with Anthony Burton. **Building a Library**: Includes reviews of Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 4); Paul McCreesh (Venetian Vespers); and British orchestral and vocal music. **10.35 Record Release**: Vaughan Williams (Pilgrim's Progress, Act 1, sc 2: Soloists; Royal Northern College of Music Chorus and Orchestra under Igor Kennaway); Havergal Brian (Symphony No 32: National SO of Ireland under Adrian Leaper); **11.12** Gabrieli Consort and Players under Paul McCreesh perform the opening sequence from the *Vespers of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin*, as it might have been performed at St Mark's, Venice, in 1643; Bantock (Two Heroic Ballads: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Vernon Handley); Tippett (Byzantium: Faye Robinson, soprano, Chicago SO under Georg Solti); Patrick O'Connor reviews EMI's *Le Théâtre Parisien*, a five-CD survey of French acting; **12.42pm** a selection from Nadia Boulanger's 1937 recordings of madrigals by Monteverdi
1.00pm News
1.05 Scotland's Music: The Scottish Virtuoso. The last of five concerts from the 1992 Edinburgh International Festival. Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Alexander Gibson and Jukka-Pekka Saraste performs William Wallace (Symphonic poem, The Passing of Beatrice); James MacMillan (Veni, veni Emmanuel, Concerto for percussion); Thea Musgrave (Horn Concerto); Mackenzie (Piano Concerto, Scottish); Whyte (Finale, Ballet, Donald of the Burthens)
3.00 The Koussevitzky Legacy: The last of 12 programmes of music from the Boston Symphony Orchestra's fiftieth anniversary season. Bach, orch Schoenberg (Prelude and Fugue in E flat, St Anne); Ravel (Piano Concerto in G); Copland (Symphonic Ode)
4.10 Jazz Record Requests, with Geoffrey Smith
4.55 Tristan und Isolde: Live from the New Theatre, Cardiff. Welsh National Opera Chorus and Orchestra under Charles Mackerras perform Act 1 of Wagner's opera in the new production by Yannis Kokkos. Sung in German. With Jeffrey Lawton as Tristan and Anne Evans as Isolde. **6.20** Jeremy Beadle discusses the symbolism of night and day in the opera. **6.50** Act 2. **8.10** Opera News, with James Naughtie. **9.10** Act 3
10.45 Body Politics — Sex in the 1920s: See Choice
11.15 Impressions: Includes reviews of new albums by John Scofield, Albert Mangelsdorff and Jaco Pastorius, and biographies of Louis Jordan, Ornette Coleman and Andy Razaf
12.30-12.35am News

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** The Farming Week **6.50** Prayer for the Day **6.55** Weather **7.00** Today, incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.20** Listeners' Letters **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **7.55** Weather **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Sport on 4
9.30 Breakaway visits Le Touquet in France and Vietnam
10.00 News; Loose Ends
11.00 News; The Week in Westminster, with Alastair Campbell
11.30 Europhile, presented by Gordon Clough
12.00 Money Box, with Alison Mitchell
12.25pm Just a Minute! Nicholas Parsons challenges Peter Jones, Paul Merton, Derek Nimmo and Craig Ferguson to talk non-stop for 60 seconds **12.55** Weather
1.00 News
1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a discussion in Pershore, Worcestershire. On the panel are Tony Blair, MP, shadow home secretary; Peter Lilley, MP, social security secretary; Liz Lynne, MP, Liberal Democrat spokesperson on health and community care; and Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times* **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Any Answers? 071-580 4444 from 12.30pm
2.30 Playhouse: Music and Silence. Timothy West and Janet Maw star in Rose Tremain's play. Set in 17th-century Denmark, it is based on the friendship between Leonora, daughter of King Christian, and Moritz (r)
3.45 My Four Green Fields: In his final talk about Ireland's provinces, the novelist Joseph Hone visits Sheep's Head peninsula in West Cork (r)
4.00 News; Age to Age: Christopher Cook examines the life and times of Georges Clemenceau
4.30 Science Now, presented by Peter Evans
5.00 Costing the Earth: Roger Harrabin and Jonathon Porritt discuss biotechnology
5.25 Fourth Column, with Simon Hoggart **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 News and Sports Round-Up
6.25 Week Ending: A satirical review of the week's news (r)
6.50 On the Ropes: See Choice
7.20 Kaleidoscope: A History of Jazz in Six Pianists. John Fordham explores 70 years of piano music, with the help of Jools Holland, Joanna MacGregor and Simon Purcell
7.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Free Agent, by Danny Schiller. On holiday in Devon, Richard (Michael Maloney) is forced to stay in a small village, where his presence upsets the peaceful equilibrium. With Louise Jameson as Anna
9.20 Music in Mind: Brian Kay presents favourite melodies
9.50 Ten to Ten 9.59 Weather
10.00 News
10.15 The Open Mind: Sarah Baxter and Henry Porter examine the impetus among Britain's black people to establish a separate cultural identity
10.45 Eva and Adamson Again: Stories from an unlikely marriage, written and read by Leonard Barras
11.00 Richard Baker Compares Notes with Brenda Lucas (r)
11.30 Lionel Nimrod's Inexplicable World looks at love (r)
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** World Service (LW only)

CHOICE

Body Politics: Sex in the 1920s. *Radio 3, 10.45pm*
The roll call of celebrated (and reviled) sexual liberators in Christopher Cook's enquiry is impressive and predictable — Marie Stopes, Havelock Ellis, Radclyffe Hall and D.H. Lawrence. Cinema sex gets short shrift, theatre sex none at all, but there is the thunder of collapsing barricades that blocked the road to birth control and the sexual rights of women.

On the Ropes. *Radio 4, 6.50pm*
A pop idol in the sixties and seventies, singer-songwriter Gilbert O'Sullivan admits that he is not everybody's favourite in the recording industry of the nineties. Tired of his manager cutting himself the biggest slice of his success cake, O'Sullivan fought a long legal battle and finished up with the whole cake. What entitles him to a place in John Humphrys's hall of faded fame are the brick walls that the pop industry has built against him. **Peter Davalle**

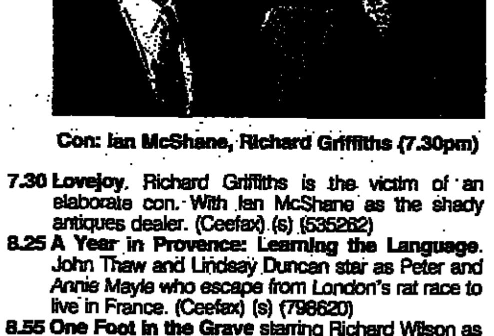
FREQUENCIES: RADIO 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-

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SUNDAY TELEVISION AND RADIO

BBC1

7.00 Felix the Cat. Feline fun (5733804) **7.15 Smoggies** (r) (3145129) **7.40 Playdays** (r) (s) (8171281) **8.00 Superbods** (r) (3637194)
8.15 Breakfast with Frost (522756)
9.15 People on the Way. Linda Mary Evans visits Carlin in Scotland (s) (8849026)
10.00 See Hear! A progress report on the campaign for a civil rights bill for disabled people (s) (71910)
10.30 Japanese Language and People (r) (76804). Wales: Computing for the Terrified
11.00 Computing for the Terrified. Drama documentary series aimed to take the fear out of computing (s) (9216). Wales (to 12.30): See You Sunday
11.30 Making Time. The first in a three-part series about making the most of your time (s) (6045)
12.00 Advice Shop. Welfare rights magazine (r) (90484)
12.30 Country File with John Craven (9634620). Wales: Down to Earth **12.55 Weather** (29065823)
1.00 News (87292910) **1.05 On the Record** presented by Jonathan Dimbleby with John Cole (2501736)
2.00 EastEnders (r). (Ceefax) (s) (89939)
3.00 Match Of The Day: The Road to Wembley. Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage of the FA Cup quarter-final match between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur from Maine Road (37262)
5.00 The Clothes Show Has British fashion lost its sense of direction? (s) (4635823)
5.25 Antiques Roadshow. Hugh Scully introduces the show from Kensington. (Ceefax) (s) (7858649)
6.10 News with Moira Stuart. Weather (752113)
6.25 Village Praise. Pam Rhodes joins the people of Llanberis in Wales. (Ceefax) (s) (532755)
7.00 Last of the Summer Wine. Roy Clarke's amiable comedy series following the antics of three elderly friends (r). (Ceefax) (s) (6571)

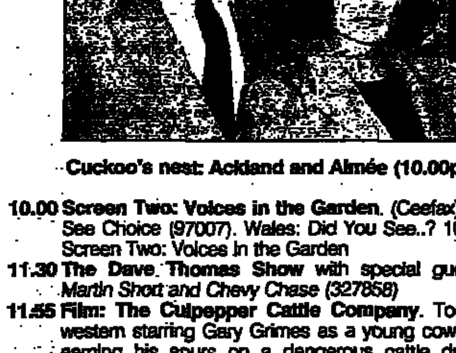


Con: Ian McShane, Richard Griffiths (7.30pm)

7.30 Lovejoy. Richard Griffiths is the victim of an elaborate con. With Ian McShane as the shady antiques dealer. (Ceefax) (s) (535262)
8.25 A Year in Provence: Learning the Language. John Thaw and Lindsay Duncan star as Peter and Annie Mayle who escape from London's rat race to live in France. (Ceefax) (s) (798620)
8.55 One Foot in the Grave starring Richard Wilson as the irascible Victor Meldrew. (Ceefax) (s) (961129)
9.25 News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax). Weather (378649)
9.40 Mastermind. Questions on fantasy and science fiction, 1960-1990; Yorkshire railways; A.J. Munnings and Stanley Baldwin (992378)
10.10 *Everyman: How to Get to Heaven in Montana.* The Hutterites, a Christian sect in America, have maintained their traditions for more than 400 years. However, many members are now leaving (r). (Ceefax) (990084). Wales: Bus to Bosworth
11.00 Winning. David Hall advises a troubled company in Suffolk (r) (s) (8397). Wales: 11.10 Welsh Liberal Party conference **11.30 Famously Fluent.** Prunella Scales speaks French. (Ceefax) (737991)
11.35 The Seaside Trains. Retracing the line from Evercreech Junction over the Somerset Levels (r) (319295). Wales: 11.50 Everyman
12.05am The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore is joined by Iain Nicolson of Hertfordshire University (s) (4971514) **12.25 Weather** (6973682). Wales 12.40 Winning *1.10 Famously Fluent 1.15 The Seaside Trains 1.45* The Sky at Night 2.05 News and weather

BBC2

6.15 Open University
9.10 Christopher Crocodile (r) (1303552) **9.15 The Animals of Farthing Wood.** (Ceefax) (s) (3074945) **9.40 Time Busters** Fantasy adventure (8338397) **10.05 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (7449755) **10.30 Century Falls.** Drama (5498194) **10.55 Blue Peter Omnibus** (r) (s) (8965026) **11.45 The O-Zone** (s) (2344484)
12.00 Thunderbirds (r) (Ceefax) (8857533)
12.50 The Invaders. Science-fiction series (r) (7365151)
1.40 Tex Avery Triple Bill (56441213)
2.00 Regional Westminster Programmes (1787). Northern Ireland: Country Times
2.30 Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World. How the Nevajo Indians of America recognise their links to each other and to the earth (1448200)
3.25 Somebody Else's War. War correspondent Paul Harris visits the former Yugoslavia (9270113)
3.55 Ocean Challenge. Julian Pettifer charts the story of 10 yachts on their race around the world (1801397)
4.35 Ski Sunday from Morzine-Avoriaz (5351571)
5.10 Rugby Special. Chris Rea introduces highlights of the Five Nations matches between England and Scotland and Wales and Ireland (s) (6964804)
6.10 The Natural World. The poignant story of a brown hyena's struggle to survive and rear her cubs. (Ceefax) (s) (725858)
7.00 The Money Programme. Peter Wilson-Smith reports on how high interest rates and unemployment in France are undermining the conviction that the way to keep up with the Germans is to have a strong currency pegged to the mark (650910)
7.40 Norman Tebbit: A Loner in Politics. Lord Tebbit talks to David Dimbleby (470310)
8.20 Dancing: Dancing in One World. The final film in the series asks whether individual cultures will survive in the future (s) (953910)
9.20 Did You See..? Jeremy Paxman and his guests, *Margaret Busby, Pat Kane and Sir Clement Freud* discuss *Chef, Doctor Finlay* and *Seven Songs for Malcolm X* (s) (443939). Wales: In Search of Schubert



Cuckoo's nest: Ackland and Aimée (10.00pm)

10.00 Screen Two: Voices in the Garden. (Ceefax) (s) See Choice (97007). Wales: Did You See..? 10.40 Screen Two: Voices in the Garden
11.30 The Dave Thomas Show with special guests *Martin Short and Chevy Chase (327858)*
11.55 Film: The Culpepper Cattle Company. Tough western starring Gary Grimes as a young cowboy earning his spurs on a dangerous cattle drive. Directed by Dick Richards (941543). Wales: 12.05 The Dave Thomas Show 12.30-2.00 Film: The Culpepper Cattle Company **1.10am Close**

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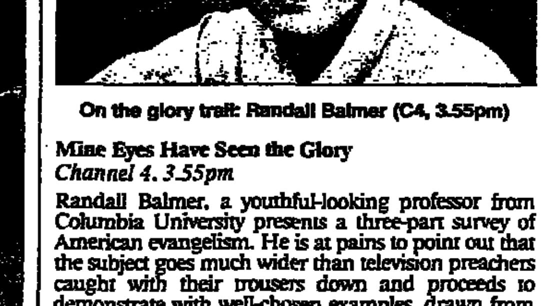
CHOICE

The South Bank Show: I. Berlioz
ITV, 10.50pm.

A film about Hector Berlioz focuses on the composer's struggle to write and stage his mammoth opera, *The Trojans*. The theme is ripe for flamboyant treatment and the director Tony Palmer does not disappoint. He uses Berlioz's own words, taken from letters and memoirs and spoken by a bewhiskered Corin Redgrave. It is a story of frustration and failure. Berlioz was tormented by the idea of a vast opera for which he would write both words and music. But the work was derided and abused and never performed in full during his lifetime. Palmer himself staged *The Trojans* in Zurich in 1990 and uses excerpts here. The striking images and soaring music are an ironic counterpoint to the composer's cynicism and gloom.

Screen Two: Voices in the Garden
BBC2, 10.00pm

Dirk Bogarde's novel translates successfully to the screen, helped by a perceptive script from Lee Langley, attractive French locations and four excellent performances. The plot device is a standard one, of throwing a stone into still waters and observing the ripples, but freshness of characterisation prevents cliché setting in. The elderly Sir Archie (Joss Ackland) and his wife Cuckoo (Anouk Aimée) maintain an ossified routine in their sumptuous villa in Cap Ferrat. He works ineffectually on a book about Napoleon and she grows bored. Disruption is effected by a young hitchhiker (Samuel West) and his German girlfriend (Kashia Figura). There follows a discourse on identity and deception which develops in unexpected ways.



On the glory trail: Randall Balmer (C4, 3.55pm)

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
Channel 4, 3.55pm

Randall Balmer, a youthful-looking professor from Columbia University presents a three-part survey of American evangelism. He is at pains to point out that the subject goes much wider than television preachers caught with their trousers down and proceeds to demonstrate with well-chosen examples, drawn from different regions and social groups. He contrasts evangelism packaged like a television spectacular for a middle-class suburb of Chicago with the spontaneous, red-blooded frenzy of the black south, the rigid fundamentalism of a chapel in California and the simple worship of poor whites in West Virginia. It is a thoughtful, instructive and well-organised series.

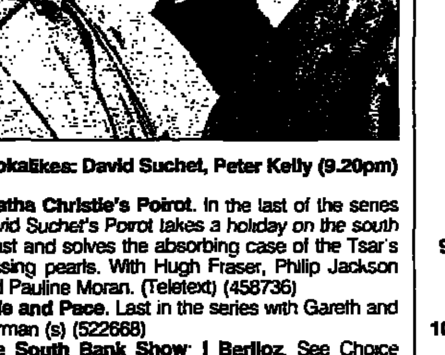
High Interest: IBM's Big Blues
Channel 4, 5.15pm

Another very accessible report from the business world charts the rise and fall of IBM, once the unassailable computer giant but now trying to recover from one of the biggest losses in company history. The film is partly an analysis of what went wrong and partly an update on what is being done to put things right. The old IBM was a conservative regime which required its staff to wear stiff white shirts and became insensitive to the needs of customers. One of the biggest mistakes was failing to exploit the explosion in personal computers. IBM executives interviewed are predictably bullish but there are fears that the company will soon be breaking with decades of tradition and calling for compulsory redundancies.

Peter Waymark

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV (45419858)
8.55 Disney Club with Andrea Boardman, Richard Orford and Paul Hendy. The guests include comedians the Two Marks (95737755)
10.45 Link. A group of disabled Americans argues that it is the medical profession that hampers their progress. (Teletext) (2433262)
11.00 A Meditation. In the first of four programmes, Frank Wright tries to make sense of a world that seems to be moving towards disaster (s) (16571)
12.00 This Sunday. Paul Heiney and Jenni Murray take their weekly look at topical religious stories. (Teletext) (85552)
12.30 Crosstalk. Ken Bates, Chairman of Chelsea Football Club, talks to Peter Allen and MPs David Mellor and Tony Banks (s) (48736)
1.00 News and weather (57636858) **1.10 Walden** Brian Walden asks the home secretary, Kenneth Clarke, if the government can get on top of crime (s) (2264179)
2.00 Matlock: The Vendetta Andy Griffiths stars as the wily American defence attorney (7058804)
2.55 Film: Bear Island (1979). Donald Sutherland and Vanessa Redgrave star in a tedious adaptation of Alistair MacLean's novel about a United Nations research team discovering gold in a rusting Nazi submarine. Directed by Don Sharp (92612571)
5.00 Wish You Were Here..? (r) (4303)
5.30 Survival: Shetland: Worse Things Happen at Sea? A look at the effect the *Braer's* oil spillage has had on the area's ecosystem. (Teletext) (262)
6.00 London Tonight with Fiona Foster (486668) **6.20 News** and weather (279945)
6.30 Murder, She Wrote: Who Killed JB Fletcher? Starring Angela Lansbury as the author and amateur detective. A member of Jessica's fan club dies while impersonating her. (Teletext) (s) (233587)
7.25 Watching. Paul Bown and Emma Wray play the mismatched birdwatchers. Brenda feels excluded when her mother and Malcolm appear to hit it off. *(Teletext) (660991)*
7.55 The Darling Buds of May David Jason and Pam Ferris star as Ma and Pa Larkin in the amiable drama series. When the twins' boarding school is threatened with closure the Larkins come to the rescue. (Teletext) (s) (262804)
8.55 News and weather (233858)

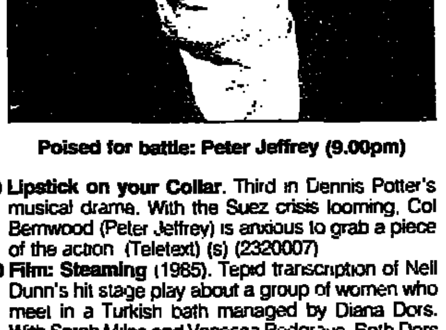


Lookalikes: David Suchet, Peter Kelly (9.20pm)

9.20 Agatha Christie's Poirot. In the last of the series *David Suchet's Poirot takes a holiday on the south* coast and solves the absorbing case of the Tsar's missing pearls. With Hugh Fraser, Philip Jackson and Pauline Moran. (Teletext) (458736)
10.20 Hale and Pace. Last in the series with Gareth and Norman (s) (522668)
10.50 The South Bank Show: I Berlioz. See Choice (7322200)
12.20am Encounter. Should we give money to London's beggars? (2580359)
12.50 Cue the Music. Rock guitarist Pat Travers live in concert in Toronto (5304514)
1.55 TXT. Celebrity chat (1804250)
2.55 Coach. American comedy series (9662595)
3.30 Snooker. Alan McManus takes on James Wattana in the European League (38021)
5.30 ITN Morning News (97137). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport (r) (1708842) **6.55 Dennis** (r) (3343823) **7.05 The Wombles** (r) (3575649) **7.10 Widget** (s) (2066668) **7.35 Sandokan.** Animated adventures of the pirate prince (7153736) **8.05 The Hammerman** Cartoon (7605755) **8.30 The Finder** Final episode of the Australian drama series (4069823) **8.55 Dennis** (r) (5844755) **9.00 Tintin** Hergé's hero meets up with a Yeti (76858) **9.30 Dennis** (r) (4713465)
9.45 Flipper Adventures of a friendly dolphin (367620)
10.15 The Lone Ranger (b/w) (r) (462129)
10.45 Land of the Giants. Vintage science-fiction series (r) (527200)
11.45 Little House on the Prairie Trials and tribulations of a close-knit Kansas plains family (523484)
12.45 The Dream Ticket On April 23, 1991 British Airways gave away 50,000 free flights. This documentary follows six of the winners in the seats lottery (r) (897571)
1.45 Film: How Green was my Valley (1941, b/w) Rousing sentimental version of Richard Llewellyn's novel about life in a Welsh mining village at the turn of the century as seen through the eyes of a young boy (Roddy McDowall). With Donald Crisp, Walter Pidgeon and Maureen O'Hara. Winner of five Oscars including one for director John Ford (89503484)
3.55 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory See Choice (8750262)
4.55 The Orator Puppetry from Czechoslovakia (r) (6296804)
5.10 News and weather (1793842)
5.15 High Interest See Choice (9260939)
6.00 Moviewatch. Norwich cinema-goers review new releases (s) (945)
6.30 The Wonder Years American life in the early Seventies as seen through the eyes of a teenage boy (Teletext) (397)
7.00 Fragile Earth: Caviar Russian researcher Lydia Michiaova warns that over-indulgence in caviar from the Volga could be dangerous as the sturgeon are now contaminated with traces of lead, magnesium, mercury and farming pesticides. At a cost of £70 for 2oz, it is unlikely that the problem will reach epidemic proportions! (r) (Teletext) (1991)
8.00 Opinions: Britain 1993. Linda Colley, British-born professor of history at Yale, calls for a bill of citizens' rights (8129)
8.30 Benny Hill Compilation of clips from the comedian's many shows (Teletext) (4736)



Poised for battle: Peter Jeffrey (9.00pm)

9.00 Lipstick on your Collar. Third in Dennis Potter's musical drama. With the Suez crisis looming, Col Bernwood (Peter Jeffrey) is anxious to grab a piece of the action (Teletext) (s) (2320007)
10.10 Film: Steaming (1985). Tepid transcription of Nell Dunn's hit stage play about a group of women who meet in a Turkish bath managed by Diana Dors. With Sarah Miles and Vanessa Redgrave. Both Dors and the director, Joseph Losey, died soon after the film was completed (306991)
11.55 Film: Ta Dona (1991). The African cinema season continues with this drama from Mali about an engineer who is sent to a Saharan village to dissuade the people from setting fire to the forest. Directed by Adama Drabo. In French with English subtitles (440194). Ends at **1.45**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30-1.00 Food Guide (9732216) **2.00-2.50** Wrestling (2436991) **5.00** Survival (4303) **5.30** Bullseye (262) **6.00-6.20** Anglia News (486668) **12.50** Quiz Night (6989243) **2.20** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (8799359) **1.50** Film: How To Be An Honest Cop (323750) **3.40** Entertainment UK (2359717) **4.40** The Pasadenas (79661682) **5.00-5.30** America's Top Ten (77934)

BORDER
As London except: 12.30-1.00 Gardener's Diary (9732216) **2.00** Wish You Were Here..? (7823) **2.30** Film: Will Any Gentleman? (59303) **4.00** Survival (246) **4.30** Bullseye (910) **5.00** Scotsport (6610) **6.00-6.20** The Border Week (758397) **12.50** Quiz Night (6989243) **1.20** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (8799359) **1.45** Film: How To Be An Honest Cop (323750) **3.40** Entertainment UK (2359717) **4.35** Pasadenas (79661682) **5.00-5.30** America's Top Ten (77934)

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.30-1.00 Gardening Time (9732216) **2.00** Wrestling (7058804) **2.55** Coach (2091842) **3.25** Film: A Boy Named Charlie Brown (60408587) **5.00** Survival (4303) **5.30-6.20** Highway to Heaven (384910) **12.50** Prisoner: Cell Block H (4994311) **1.45** Island Son (7404494) **2.40** Cue the Music (8330392) **3.40** ITV Chart Show (6352668) **4.35** Jobfinder (5435697) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (2176205)

GRANADA
As London except: 12.25-1.00 What the MPs Say (3312303) **2.00** Granada Action (7823) **2.30** Film: Great Expectations (31155945) **4.45** Bullseye (260378) **5.15-6.20** Coronation Street (412939) **12.50** Quiz Night (6989243) **1.20** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (8799359) **1.45** Film: How To Be An Honest Cop (323750) **3.40** Entertainment UK (2359717) **4.35** Pasadenas (79661682) **5.00-5.30** America's Top Ten (77934)

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.30-1.00 HTV Newsweek (48736) **2.00** Wrestling (2436991) **2.50** Film: The Battle of the Bulge (48110571) **5.45-6.20** Survival (259262) **12.50** Quiz Night (6989243) **1.20** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (8799359) **1.45** Film: How To Be An Honest Cop (323750) **3.40** Entertainment UK (2359717) **4.35** Pasadenas (79661682) **5.00-5.30** America's Top Ten (77934)

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 12.30-1.00 Playback

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.30 Meridian This Week (1372736) **12.50-1.00** Meridian News (35637194) **2.00** Highway To Heaven (7058804) **2.55** Film: The Sting II (65159823) **4.45** Survival (260378) **5.15** Bullseye (250991) **5.45-6.20** Loud and Clear (259262) **12.50** ITV Chart Show (5304514) **1.50** Film: Timeslip (3464972) **3.10** Kojak (6390953) **4.05** The Pier (75808717) **4.35** Videofashion (79661682) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (77934)

TYNE TEES
As London except: 12.25 The Littlest Hobo (3111397) **12.50-1.00** Tyne Tees News (35637194) **2.00** The Magical World of Disney (7058804) **2.55** Film: Brief Encounter (29388755) **4.50** Dinosaurs (6929571) **5.20** Bullseye (4631007) **5.50-6.20** The Back Page (279668) **12.50** Quiz Night (6989243) **1.20** Memories of 1977 (51351576) **2.15** Zero Dhyan Dein (3568779) **2.20** Film: Patanga (29821953) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.30-1.00 Westwise (9732216) **2.00** Westcountry Update (7823) **2.30** Zorro (874) **3.00** Film: His Majesty O'Keefe (38358741) **4.45** Movies, Movie, Movies (260378) **5.15** Survival (250991) **5.45-6.20** On the Road To the Islands (259262) **12.50** Quiz Night (6989243) **1.20** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (8799359) **1.45** Film: How To Be An Honest Cop (323750) **3.40** Entertainment UK (2359717) **4.35** Pasadenas (79661682) **5.00-5.30** America's Top Ten (77934)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.25 The Littlest Hobo (3111397) **12.50-1.00** Calendar News (35637194) **2.00** The Magical World of Disney (7058604) **2.55** Film: Brief Encounter (29388755) **4.50** Dinosaurs (6929571) **5.20** Bullseye (4631007) **5.50-6.20** Calendar (252620) **12.50** Quiz Night (6989243) **1.20** Memories of 1977 (5351576) **2.20** Film: Patanga (29821953) **5.00-5.20** Jobfinder

S4C
Starts: 7.05 The Wombles (3575649) **7.10** Widget (3066668) **7.35** Sandokan (7153736) **8.05** Hammerman (7605755) **8.30** The Finder (4069823) **8.55** Dennis (5844755) **9.00** Jeifin (76858) **9.30** Dennis (4713465) **9.45** Flipper (367620) **10.15** The Lone Ranger (462129) **10.45** Land of the Giants (527200) **11.45** Little House on the Prairie (523484) **12.45** Sierad Pisen (9855113) **1.10** Magic Roundabout (87281804) **1.15** Serengeti Has Not Died (634804) **1.45** Film: How Green Was My Valley (89503484) **3.55** How Now Boing, Boing? (2966910) **4.00** Fragile Earth (4638) **5.00** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (2945) **5.30** Pobol Y Cwm (26789397) **7.15** Bwrw'r Sul (202397) **8.05** Hel Straeon (698303) **8.35** William Jones (296262) **9.35** Newyddion (253026) **9.40** Saith Diwrnod Ar Y Sul (625194) **8.55** The New Statesman (355303) **10.25** Porterhouse Blue (734194) **11.25** ENG (223303) **12.20-1.05** *High Interest*

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am Hour of Power (98216) **7.00** Fun Factory (4723910) **11.30** The Brady Bunch (51587) **12.00** World Wrestling Federation Challenge (60755) **1.00pm** Robin of Sherwood (42303) **2.00** Trapper John (23397) **3.00** Xposure (8692) **3.30** Fashion TV (9552) **4.00** UK Top 40 (61910) **5.00** All American Wrestling (1804) **6.00** The Simpsons (66939) **7.00** 21 Jump Street (51384) **8.00** Alice to Nowhere: First of a two-part mini series set in the Australian outback (83820) **10.00** Wiseguy (85255) **11.00** Hill Street Blues (44378) **12.00** Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (28991) **5.30** News and *Business Report* (35718) **9.30** *Frost on Sunday* (29945) **11.30** The National Gallery — A Private View (59129) **12.30pm** *Financial Times* Reports (49262) **1.30** Target (48533) **2.30** Roving Report (2849) **3.30** The Lords (7194) **4.30** Memories of 1970-1991 (5113) **6.30** Roving Report (3718) **7.30** *Financial Times* Reports (6842) **9.30** Target (69026) **10.30** Roving Report (11945) **11.30** ABC News (19194) **12.30am** Those Were The Days (22359) **1.30** ABC News (51250) **2.30** Target (85514) **3.30** ABC News (76866) **4.30** The National Gallery — A Private View (74934) **5.30-6.00** Beyond 2000 (51359)

SKY MOVIES PLUS
6.00am Showcase (73649)
8.00 The Last of the Secret Agents? (1966): Espionage spoof starring Marty Allen and Steve Rossi (14849)
10.00 Caddie Woodlawn (1991) A tomboy foils an attack on Dakota Indians (52736)
12.00 Sweet 15: A Mexican girl discovers that she is an illegal immigrant (20200)
2.00pm Grand Larceny (1988) Marilu Henner learns how to steal (93007)
4.00 Krull (1983) Fantasy starring Ken Marshall and Lysette Anthony (6736)
6.00 Working Trash (1990) Two caretakers get rich by sifting through rubbish on Wall Street. With George Carlin (29674)
7.30 Xposure Film news (2226)
8.00 Air America (1990) Comedy starring Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr as civilian pilots in Vietnam (81216)
10.00 The First Power (1990) Lou Diamond Phillips tracks a devil-worshipping killer (960113)
11.40 Grand Slam (1989). Rival bounty hunters pursue the same man (975465)
1.15am Out for Justice (1991) Steven Seagal and William Forsyth turn the streets of Brooklyn into a war zone (592971)
2.45 The House Where Evil Dwells (1982). An American family moves into a haunted Japanese house (247804)
4.15 In the Line of Duty: Street Wars (1992). A policeman is shot during a raid on a crack factory (390779) Ends at **5.55**

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00 A Farewell to Arms (1957). Hemingway's first world war romantic drama. Ambulanceman Rock Hudson falls in love with nurse Jennifer Jones (199129)
6.30 Lawrence of Arabia (1962) Peter O'Toole stars as T.E. Lawrence (9409484)
10.00 Sharky's Machine (1981) Burt Reynolds pursues gangster Vittorio Gassman (50842). Ends at **12.00**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.30am The Cocoanuts (1929, b/w). Comedy with the Marx brothers (74212397)
8.10 Oliver's Story (1978) Sequel to *Love Story*. A bereaved Ryan O'Neal meets heiress Candice Bergen (98218741)
10.00 The Little Kidnappers (1990) Two orphans find an abandoned baby (50378)
12.00 Testament (1983) Post-nuclear survival drama (28842)
2.00pm Going Ape! (1981) Tony Danza has to look after a family of orang-utans to inherit a fortune (91649)
4.00 The Slender Thread (1965) Anne Bancroft takes an overdose (4378)
6.00 Short Time (1990). (1990) Policeman Dabney Coleman thinks he is dying and tries to get himself killed (63033)
8.00 Star Trek — The Next Generation: Unification (1991) Patrick Stewart, captain of the Enterprise, investigates a peace initiative forged with the Romulans (83858)
10.00 Class Action (1991): Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as father and daughter, and rival lawyers (150129)
11.55 Disturbed (1990) Malcolm McDowell descends into insanity (667084)
1.40am Night of the Cyclone (1990) Kris Kristofferson searches for his missing daughter in the Caribbean (120750)
3.15 Captain Carey, USA (1950, b/w) Former soldier Alan Ladd returns to Italy (4924750) Ends at **4.35**

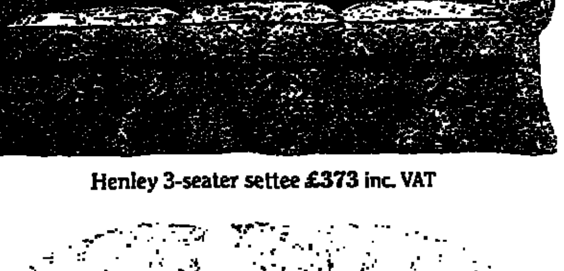
SKY SPORTS
6.30am Fishing the West (44858) **7.00** Rugby League Academy (82552) **9.00** Jack High (71007) **10.00** Goals on Sunday (74587) **11.00** Super Sunday — Preview (32216) **12.30pm** Super Sunday: Coventry City v Everton (938179) **3.00** Bull Riders (97303) **4.00** Red Line (79610) **5.00** European League (3604) **6.00** Super Sunday Extra (16533) **7.00** The Big League (73804) **9.00** USPGA Golf, Doral Ryder Open (40939) **11.00** ATP Tennis (59007) **1.00-3.00am** German League Football (54682)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Trans World Sport (64246) **8.30** Step Aerobics (3952736) **8.55** Nordic Skiing (2197804) **10.00** Alpine Skiing (96755) **11.00** Boxing (76991) **12.00** Nordic Skiing (60842) **2.00pm** Biathlon (611571) **5.00** Alpine Skiing (1200) **6.00** Nordic Skiing (14129) **7.00** Golf (91200) **9.00** Boxing (45484) **10.00** American Basketball (18842) **12.00-12.30am** Eurofun Magazine (69156)

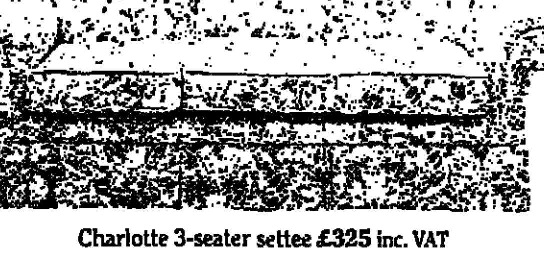
UK GOLD
6.00am Rainbow (52381823) **6.15** Button Moon (52386378) **6.30** Michael Bentine's Potty Time (8190484) **7.00** Hot Dog (2510281) **7.30** Owl TV (2602216) **8.00** Lassie (1146026) **8.30** Rentaghost (1145397) **9.00** Dr Who and the Silurians (3272755) **11.30** Film: The Lady Vanishes (1938, b/w) starring Margaret Lockwood (41741945) **1.15pm** Film: Kiss Me Kate (1953) with Kathryn Grayson and Howard Keel (4980571) **3.15** The Bill Omnibus (24815718) **5.30** Wuthering Heights (4495804) **6.30** The District Nurse (5755194) **7.00** Sorry! (3071755) **7.30** To the Manor Born (5751378) **8.00** To Serve Them All My Days (2825007) **9.00** Film: Class (1983) with Jacqueline Bisset (29321262) **10.50** Ripping Yarns (1181736) **11.30** Alas Smith and Jones (8170620) **12.00-1.15am** In Concert: Ashford and Simpson (25060330)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am *Stories Without Words* (72259) **6.30** Cartoon Classics (36484) **7.00** The Best of Jack in the Box (58194) **7.30** David the Gnome (40129) **8.00** The Berenstain Bears (23303) **8.30** Barnyard Commandos (22074) **9.00** Gravedale High (11649) **10.00** The Smoggies (68113) **11.00** Bravestarr (53649) **12.00** Cartoon Classics (5824295) **12.55pm** Interbang (3440571) **1.20** Okavango (1005561) **2.15** Earthworks (904200) **2.45** Anne of Wolf Clan (9709945) **3.35** Under the Mountain (4593129) **4.05** Commander Crumbcake (5306945) **4.30** Shadows (9303) **5.00** TVFM (4939) **5.30** Fifteen (7755) **6.00-7.00** Fame (52303)

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RADIO 3

6.35am Open University: Education Bulletin
6.55 Weather
7.00 Sunday Morning Concert: Falla (Ballet, The Three-Cornered Hat); Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez); Curtis (Romanza); Mendelssohn (Incidental music, A Midsummer Night's Dream)
9.00 News
9.05 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning: Trad (Greensleeves); Vaughan Williams (Fantasia on Greensleeves); Dargomizhky (Kasatchok); Schumann (Arabeske in C, Op 18); Franz Waxman (Carmen Fantasy); Mozart (Divertimento in E flat, K252); Weber (Overture, Oberon); Trad (Pilentse Pee: Kalimankou Denkov); **10.14** Artist of the Week: Osian Ellis, harp, plays Ravel (Introduction *and Allegro*). *Composer of the Week* preview: Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 1 in C); Cavalli (Vivo per te pietosa, La Calisto); Britten (Suite for harp, Op 83); Handel (Coronation Anthem No 3, The King Shall Rejoice); Walton (Façade, Suites Nos 1 and 2)
12.00 Spirit of the Age: A *retrospective view* of the innovative *Early Music* magazine **1.00pm News**
1.05 Replay: Philip French introduces a 1961 talk by W.H. Auden on the novelist Ronald Firbank
1.25 From the Proms 1992: Lesley Garrett, soprano, Jean Rigby, mezzo; BBC Welsh Chorus; Bach Choir; National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain under Tadaaki Otaka performs Berg (Three Pieces for Orchestra, Op 6); Mahler (Symphony No 2 in C minor, Resurrection), including at **1.45** Interval Reading (r)
3.15 Mistry Quartet performs Haydn (String Quartet in C, Op 54 No 2); Dvořák (String Quartet in F, Op 96, American); Bartók (String Quartet No 5) (r)
4.45 The Crying of Wind: Warlock (The Curlew: Music Group of London); Hindemith (Die junge Magd: Gabriele Schnaut, contralto; members of the Berlin RSO under Gerd Albrecht)
5.30 Let Only the Source Be Pure: Michael Oliver investigates Bela Bartók's musical language and *processes of composition*
6.15 Malcolm Proud, harpsichord, plays Couperin (Pièces de clavecin — Ordre No 22 in D); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in A minor); Scarlatti (Three Sonatas in D, Kk 490-492)
7.15 BBC Scottish SO in Bonn: Jerzy Maksymiuk conducts Shostakovich (Symphony No 9); Nielsen (Flute Concerto: *Aurèle Nicolet*). **8.05** An Ugly Duckling? Michael Rosen visits the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Odense. **8.25** Sibelius (Symphony No 2 in D)
9.15 Sunday Play: Silence in Blue. See Choice
10.15 Haydn and Mozart: Susan Tomes, piano, plays Haydn (Piano Sonata in C, H XVI 50); Mozart (Rondo in A minor, K511); Haydn (Andante with Variations in F minor, H XVII 6, Un piccolo divertimento) (r)
11.00 Music in Our Time: An anniversary concert celebrating 50 years of the Society for the Promotion of New Music, recorded this afternoon in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. Jane Manning, soprano, and Jane's Minstrels perform works by Karen Markham, Yannis Kyriakides, Tom Ingoldsby and Andrew Vores **12.30am News**

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Prelude **6.30** Morning Has Broken, including Bells on Sunday from All Saints Church, Fawley, Southampton **6.55** Weather **7.00** News **7.10** Sunday Papers **7.15** On Your Farm: George Macpherson visits Arthur and Margaret Dunham in the fens to find out why they planted a four-acre wood **7.40** Sunday **7.55** Weather **8.00** News **8.10** Sunday Papers
8.50 Margot Boyd, Mrs Antrobus of *The Archers*, talks for the *Week's Good Cause* about the National Gardens Scheme **8.55** Weather
9.00 News
9.10 Sunday Papers
9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke (r)
9.30 Morning Service from St Margaret's Lothbury in the City of London
10.15 The Archers: Omnibus edition
11.15 News Stand, with Melanie Phillips
11.30 Pick of the Week (r)
12.15pm Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway is Ken Livingstone, MP **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World This Weekend, *with Nick Clarke* **1.55** *Shipping* Forecast
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time: Members of the Oldham Garden Suburb Association in Lancashire put their questions to Dr Stefan Buczacki, Fred Downham and Daphne Ledward. With Clay Jones
2.30 Classic Serial: Persuasion, by Jane Austen. The final part of Michelene Wandor's dramatisation. With Juliet Stevenson as Anne Elliot and Tim Brierley as Captain Wentworth (r)
3.30 The Radio Programme: Laurie Taylor considers whether radio has stopped taking risks
4.00 News; Analysis (r)
4.47 The Wedge Between Us: Dr Irving Finkel deciphers wedge writing from Mesopotamia, and explores the history of Babylonian dentistry
5.00 News; From the 'Pool to 100 Plus a Fish: The 100 Club. George Melly continues his autobiographical journey (r)
5.30 Poetry Please! 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** *Weather*
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 Feedback, presented by Chris Dunkley (r)
6.30 Europhile (r)
7.00 Nearest and Dearest: In the last of the series, Anne Brown reports on the relationships between in-laws (r)
7.30 Bookshelf: Brian Moore talks about his novel, *No Other Life*, with Nigel Forde (r)
8.00 Punters, presented by Susan Marling (r)
8.30 Goodbye to All That: In the third of four programmes, Simon Parkes visits St Ives, the art capital of Cornwall
9.00 The Natural History Programme: Jessica Holm launches a project by the charity Plantlife to grow a hedge from coast to coast (r)
9.30 Special Assignment 9.59 Weather **10.00 News**
10.15 Pak's Britannica: See Choice
11.00 In Committee, presented by Rob Orchard
11.30 Seeds of Faith: A series for Lent to mark the publication in March 1963 of *Honest to God*, by the Bishop of Woolwich, John Robinson. In this week's programme, Ruth Robinson traces her spiritual path since her husband's book was published thirty years ago
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** World Service (LW only)

CHOICE

Sunday Play: Silence in Blue. *Radio 3, 9.15pm*

When the sound effects and music experts allow us to hear what the actors are saying, Sarah Woods's play is an interesting experiment in the gradual merging of two independently unfolding odysseys. The travellers are an English girl (Emma Chambers), journeying through Australia to find a final resting place for the spirit of her aborted child, and an aboriginal woman (Mona Hammond), who leads her to it.

Pak's Britannica. *Radio 4, 10.15pm*

David Dabydeen, attempting to define the essence of the English "tribe", views the archetypes of his adoptive country through Guyanan eyes. After 20 years, he still feels "hemmed in by hordes of natives, many of them hostile". He is appalled at the "limited, brutish, and violent vocabulary" employed by modern Britons. Hard-hitting subjectivity such as this needs to be objectively matched by the likes of Lord Palumbo and Lord Desai.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Neale James (**FM** only until **6.00am**) **7.00** Gary Davies **10.00** Dave Lee Travis **1.00pm** Number Ones on 1 FM **2.30** Rockline with Neale James **4.00** The UK Top 40 with Bruno Brookes **7.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **8.00** Anne Nightingale's Request Show **10.00** Gary Davies (**FM** only from **12.00**) **1.00-4.00am** Lynn Parsons (**FM** only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo **4.00am** Barbara Sturgeon **7.00** Don Maclean **9.05** John Sachs presents Much More Music **10.30** Hayes on Sunday **12.00-7.00pm** The Vintage Years: Desmond Carrington with Radio 2 All-Time Greats, **2.00pm** Benny Green; **3.00** Alan Dell with Sounds Easy; **4.00** Stars of the Fifties; **4.30** Sing Something Simple; **5.00** Charlie Chester with Sunday Soapbox **7.00** Richard Baker with Melodies for You **8.30** Sunday Half Hour for Lent **9.00** Alan Keith with Your Hundred Best Tunes **10.00** Radio 2 Arts Programme: Richard Johnson on television soap operas **12.05am** Nick Barraclough's New Country **12.35** Charles Nove with Night Ride **3.00-5.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until **2.00pm.** **6.00am** World Service **6.30** Mark Curry's Weekend Edition **9.30** The Unopened Casebook of Sherlock Holmes (4/6) **10.00** Johnnie Walker **11.30** Fantasy Football League **12.30pm** Simon Fanshawe's Sunday Brunch **1.40** Open Forum **2.00** Money Talk **2.30** Sunday Sport **5.30** They Think It's All Over **6.00** A Century Remembered **6.30** Education Matters (r) **7.00** Sportsdesk **7.30** Open University, Maths — Calculating Prodigies, **7.40** *Europe — Wayne Across the Water;* **8.00** *Mystery Plays;* **8.20** *Patterns of Consumption* — The Affluent and the Poor; **8.40** Creative Management — Mind Sets, **9.00** Open Forum, **9.20** Art Works; **9.40** Pre-Modern Societies **10.10** Across the Line **Midnight** News: Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT.** **4.30am** World Business Review **4.40** Travel and Weather **4.45** Programmes in German **5.30** News; Europe This Weekend **5.55** European Sport **5.59** Weather **6.00** News **6.15** Letter from America **6.30** Programmes in French **6.59** Weather **7.00** News **7.30** From Our Own Correspondent **7.50** Write On **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Classics with Kay **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Review **9.15** Seeing Stars **9.30** Folk Routes **9.45** Sport **10.00** News **10.01** Science in Action **10.30** In Praise of God **11.00** Newsdesk **11.29** Travel **11.30** BBC English **11.45** *News and British Press Review in German* **Noon** News **12.01pm** *Play of the Week: In the Native State (2)* **2.01** Gods, Guides and Gurus **2.30** Anything Goes **3.00** News **3.15** International Recital **4.00** News **4.01** It's Your World Phone-Ins **4.10** News About Britain **4.15** BBC English **4.29** News in French **4.30** Programmes in German **5.00** News and Business Review **5.15** Club 648 **5.30** Programmes in French **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Programmes in German **8.00** News **8.10** Folk Routes **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Europe Tonight **9.00** News **10.15** Meridian **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.05** World Business Review **11.15** Classics with Kay **Midnight** News **12.30am** In Praise of God **1.00** News **1.01** In Their Element — Fire **1.45** Mastersingers **2.00** News **2.30** Composer of the Month: Ludwig Van Beethoven **3.00** News **3.10** News About Britain **3.15** Sport **3.30** Anything Goes **4.00** News **4.15** The Brain

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Sarah Lucas **9.00** Classic Romance **12.00** *Kenny's Line* **2.00pm** *Celebrity Choice* **3.00** Robert Booth **7.00** Authentic Performance **8.00** Classic FM Concert: Berlin RSO under Schnedt performs Mozart (Symphony No 36);

FREQUENCIES: RADIO 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2:** FM-88-90.2. **RADIO 3:** FM-90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4:** 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. **RADIO 5:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. **CAPITAL:** 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. **GLR:** 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9;

With a bang and lots of whimpers

Lynne Truss considers matters medical, from births and rebirths to the loss of a much-loved old friend



TV REVIEW

WHY do people always ask how much a baby weighs? In last weekend's BBC2 evening-long extravaganza *Birthnight*, a young father posed this question, which was obviously giving him sleepless nights. His point, I think, was that people ask it only about newborn babies, after which point their interest in lb and oz abruptly dwindles. "Your husband, tell me, how much does *he* weigh?" you suddenly ask, drunk, at a party. "I don't know; um, about 13 stone ten?" There is a long silence while you pretend to look thoughtful, not knowing what to make of this information now you have it. "That's big," you say politely, at last.

Birthnight was about 10lb at my guess: lots of hair, Daddy's eyes (strong BBC2 family resemblance), firm little grip, un-put-downable. Presumably the screaming and swearing and blood that went into its production were all promptly forgotten in the joyful moment of transmission, when labour stories finally plopped out, slithering, one after another, in a surprisingly entertaining and diverse way.

Huge bellies filled the screen. Red-faced women in hospital gowns groaned and pushed. Ruby Wax, at eight months, said: "I wanna get away. I wanna go to India. I go by travel agents and lick the glass." A dark, male seahorse beautifully squirted dozens of tiny, white, lacy baby seahorses into shady green water. At five hours in all (including *Rosemary's Baby*) *Birthnight* was a lot to take, but worth it. Could we bear up? Well, as my Mum used to say (albeit with a certain bitterness), one would rather bear up than bear down.

The constant delight was to think of those stick-in-the-muds who wrote to Radio 4's *Feedback* last week to complain about the birth scene in *The Archers*. "David!" bawled the travailling Ruth at her busily clucking husband. "Yes, my love?" "Will you just SHUT UP?" *Feedback's* offended correspondents mainly observed that nobody made shameful noises like this: also, that new fathers did not break down in tears, as David did (very movingly) on seeing the baby.

"I myself was present at my children's births," ran the stiff-lipped gist of one letter, "and I never displayed a jot of emotion." How, I wondered, would these same people cope with the stark realities of *Birthnight*? And would they realise, when their letters were read out on air, that to many listeners such a claim to stoicism would seem like self-indictment? You mean you didn't cry? And you call yourself a man?

Obviously, broadcasters can't help but build their programmes on modern (not to say fashionable) values, but sometimes it worries me that they don't even know they are doing it. In *The Archers*, Ruth *must* shout in labour. In *Casualty* (Saturday, BBC1), a rioting black kid *must* have a lucid moment to explain why, as a disaffected single-parent youth with no prospects, he got mixed up in the apocalyptic street fight that killed his father. In the new *Doctor Finlay* (Friday, ITV), wise old Dr Cameron *must* gruffly explain to his younger cronies that medicine is about treating the whole person ("it's about humanity, not politics"), even though he is speaking in 1946.

This is not a particularly novel insight, I know, but it comes home strongly in a week that saw the first two instalments of *A Labour of Love* (Saturday and Thursday, BBC2), an oral history series about pre-1950 parenting by Steve Humphries (who made *A Secret World of Sex*). Here we have the genuine testimonies, we have the archive footage, but we also have an in-built judgmental value system that shrieks aloud from the box.

I mean, take the yelling. Neither childbirth nor childhood before 1950 allowed of much noise, apparently: women often just offset labour pains by pulling against towels that were twisted around the bedstead: "You didn't make a row," said Ivy Summers, an amazing 91-year-old, "because the kids was in the next bedroom."

Elsewhere, an upper-class mother described the no-tears discipline she imposed on her children. "There was a rule that you were only allowed to cry if you had blood. Otherwise, the one thing that would *not* be required was tears." The viewer duly bristles with horror at such stories, while warming to the nice old man in a cardigan who says he defied convention and helped his wife with the washing.

These programmes are fascinating, but they also somehow masquerade as documentary truth, which is a bit disturbing. Somewhere between the highly individual first-hand testimonies and the doomy generalities of the narration (delivered by Zoe Wanamaker) falls a slanted shadow. The discredited Truby King method of feeding babies "by the clock" is held up for judgment, yet all that is properly deducible is that ideas of child-rearing can change. One day people will look at *A Labour of Love* the way today we look at 1930s propaganda, and be shocked. "They were so *certain*, weren't they? Well, it's bloody ironic, when you consider the kids."

Once you start looking for this kind of retrospective air-brushing, it is hard to stop. The new *Doctor Finlay* is set in 1946, so *why isn't everyone smoking*? How can they possibly know not to? Oh well, clutch the towel, grit the teeth, stop moaning. Actually, the opening episode of *Doctor Finlay* was very promising — good period drama, expensively filmed, nice casting, lots of classy brown hues, and an interesting story. Finlay (David Rintoul) returns from post-war Berlin, rehabilitates in Tannochbrae (the sort of wet, stone-built town where a low white sun dazzles the lens), and gets himself set for a whole new series with a younger partner, Dr Neil (Jason Flemyng), against an exciting background of postwar rural health care.

I read somewhere the surprising news that Annette Crosbie, the new Janet, had never seen her famous predecessor, Barbara Mullen, in the part: but of course the 1960s Janet would be an irrelevant study, in any case, because this 1990s post-feminist reading of Janet is younger for her age, prettier, and with a life of her own (that is, an "understanding" with the local chemist). Meanwhile the anxiety of influence seems not to have troubled Ian Bannen in taking Dr Cameron from the legendary Andrew Cruickshank. Interviewing Dr Neil — who makes the unfortunate admission that he is attempting general practice only because his father suggested it — Cameron gives him a long, beady, dangerous look. "Quite so," he growls thoughtfully, with a half-smile, "quite so." With this sort of performance, you feel you are in safe hands. This man is definitely a doctor.

The irony, of course, is that these medics are excited about the nascent National Health Service, that bonny, post-war baby which now hobbles on a zimmer frame, and which last Saturday's *Casualty* symbolically killed off forever, amid flames, sirens, and baseball bats. It was as distressing as the death of hope, and I admit I wept to see it. "No one's going to throw money at this," Duffy snuffled, as good old Charlie comforted her in the car park. "It's the end of the road."

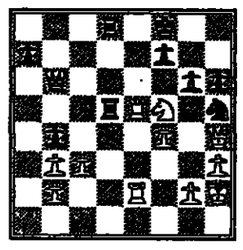
Weird to have all those new lives starting out on *Birthnight* on the other channel, while Holby hospital blazed next door. What with all the bangs and whimpers, it was a bit like the end of the world.



Casebook reopened: from left, Janet (Annette Crosbie), Dr Cameron (Ian Bannen), Dr Finlay (David Rintoul) and Dr Neil (Jason Flemyng)

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



World champion Gary Kasparov has always cited the great champion Alexander Alekhine as his chess hero. Today's position is a variation from the game Alekhine — Tarrasch, St Petersburg 1914. Can you spot Alekhine's intended winning coup which forces checkmate in three moves?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Qxg6. The winners are: P. Largan, Birmingham; M. Young, Bournemouth; M.R. Tatham, London SE3.

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

BRANDADE
a. A charity concert
b. A salt cod dish
c. A three-edged dagger

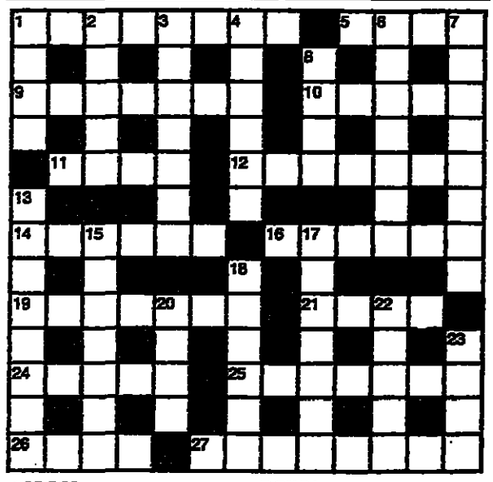
SPANDITE
a. The wing of a flying buttress
b. A kind of garnet
c. A pontoon bridge

LIMBA
a. A lobe of the brain
b. A hardwood tree
c. An energetic dance

PODUNK
a. A ring doughnut
b. An Indian tribe
c. A foot carbuncle

Answers on page 13

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3038



ACROSS
1 Last stage contestant (8)
5 50 per cent (4)
9 Pickling acid (7)
10 Frighten (5)
11 Pierce (4)
12 Sobbing (7)
14 Start (6)
16 Cask stopper (6)
19 Cattle collection (7)
21 Tread (4)
24 Symbol (5)
25 Building cover (7)
26 Republic of Ireland (4)
27 Former lover (3,5)

DOWN
1 V (4)
2 Music for nine (5)
3 Readable (7)
4 Scribble (6)
6 Wonderful (7)
7 Decontaminate with smoke (8)
8 Front (4)
13 Awful (8)
15 Loud roar (7)
17 Move into open water (4,3)
18 Twist upwards (6)
20 Weightwatching regime (4)
22 Heather (5)
23 Cruel giant (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3038

ACROSS: 1 Park Lane 7 Delve 8 Patricide 9 Orb 10 Toff 11 Tedium 13 Eulogy 14 Hubbub 19 Slight 20 Bite 21 Pot 23 Small talk 24 Tarot 25 Skin deep

DOWN: 1 Pipette 2 Ruthful 3 Laid 4 Nailed 5 Bloom 6 Derby 7 Devious 12 Against 15 Brigade 16 Break up 17 Shrank 18 Spate 19 Start 22 Flan

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A watchdog with teeth of irony

TV PREVIEW

● **Watchdog**
(Monday, BBC1, 7.30pm)
Consumer programmes obviously have a duty to express earnest indignation on behalf of the Great Diddled British Public, but *Watchdog* has a particular knack for overstating the case for the Diddled to the point where you start to suspect irony, *Lynne Truss writes*. Recently, for example, we were presented with people who, as a result of wrestling ill-advisedly with the caps of fizzy drink bottles (using knives, nutcrackers and so on), had sustained nasty eye injuries when the tops suddenly shot into their faces like bullets. Fair enough. It is obviously useful to know it can happen.

But after showing the terrible impact of this accident on a young mother's life (she had lost her job, run to fat, got depressed), *Watchdog* asked her, in all seriousness, how she would advise other people confronted with a tricky bottle of pop. "Don't do it," she begged us, as though warning against the temptations of white slavery; "Look what happened to me. It's not worth it."

Anyway, in next week's edition we have (hoorah) the Great Hoover Offer. The Many-headed Diddled have evidently inundated *Watchdog* about the recent "Buy a Hoover and fly free to America" scheme; because (wouldn't you know?) there turned out to be a catch. I can't wait. "What would you say to someone buying a Hoover, then?" "Don't do it. It has destroyed my faith in human nature. When I look at my vacuum cleaner I feel sick."

● **EastEnders**
(Tuesday and Thursday, BBC1, 7.30pm)
Where soap operas are concerned, one's reactions to good and bad news can be staggeringly perverse. Take *EastEnders*. Currently, the Bad News is that Pete Beale, the unconvincing fruit-man who can't say his "r"s, is in grave personal danger: he may have to wuddy well wun away from the Square, or he may even be wubbed out by wuffians. "Lumme, poor Pete," the viewer thinks. "But hang on, that's *good* news, isn't it?"

Meanwhile the ostensible Good News is that Rachel Kominsky, the ex-lecturer with the fantastic earrings, has secured a job in publishing, necessitating a move to Leeds. Unfortunately, she is a really good actress. "Well done, Rachel," the viewer sobs bravely, "I'm happy for you . . . " and then breaks down, inconsolable.

In next week's episodes, we are promised a terrible agony for Michelle ("The Fowlers' world turns upside down"): "How much longer will it be before Michelle's nightmare comes to an end?"), which, regular viewers will know, is something to do with Michelle's daughter, Vicky. Bad news? Well, yes. But on the other hand, the episodes are written by the excellent Susan Boyd. And, of course, Michelle (Susan Tully) will be terrific, because she's like a tiger when she's roused.

ANNA SCHER

Principal, the Anna Scher Theatre School



"People always seem suprised that I watch *Neighbours* and *Eldorado* — I like to relax by putting my feet up and having my Marks & Spencer sandwich during *Neighbours*. I know the series isn't very good and it's not intellectually stimulating, but why should I have to be in A1 concentration mode all the time? To me, the soaps are comforting because you don't have to sit there with your critical faculties on red alert. I got into *Eldorado par hasard*, because it comes on soon after *Neighbours*. I didn't like it at first, but I'm addicted now. You can really feel for the characters, and the recent issue of abortion, Catholicism and guilt was done very well."

Crisps with the Cranberries

The Irish band tells what it's like to be canonised by the press



ONCE upon a time, long ago (1991, in fact), the music press built a huge Tower of Hype, at the top of which it imprisoned a band from Ireland called the Cranberries. Their demo tape was passed around like a mini Dinky toy from the early 1950s. Their live reviews were a lesson in paragraph-by-paragraph canonisation of a band. They were the new Sundays, the new Smiths; the way forward and the light forever and ever, amen.

And then, having them trapped on top of this huge pile of hyperbolic newsprint and rabid word of mouth, the journalists proceeded to treat the band as their plaything, declaring the Cranberries' Irish accents "cute" and their "naivety" amusing. Dolores, the lead singer, hadn't heard of any rock bands . . . she used to sing in a church choir . . . she was scared of London . . .

"Those first interviews we did . . . oh, God." Dolores opens a packet of crisps and licks the salt off her fingers. Dolores once ate 24 packets of ready-salted crisps in one sitting. She is my ultimate hero.

"The journalist came out to Ireland and he was just totally ignorant of the Irish culture. He made out our house to be like something out of *My Left Foot*. We were really nice to him; we made this lovely tea for him, cakes and stuff, and he went away and said there were 90 kids running around in shoes. He kept going on about the flies on the door . . . he didn't talk about the music at all; totally lost the point."



Escapees from the Tower of Hype: lead singer Dolores fronting the Cranberries

Journalists *are* losing the point if they don't talk about the Cranberries' music. What's it like? Oh, lots of words like "melancholy" and "desolation"; the feeling of being muted by the pain in your head and heart so badly that the only way that you can get your mood across is to play their album over and over again. Dolores hits the "most beautiful high notes you'll ever hear out of La Scala," and the music washes around, alternately silt and foam, in her wake. If you've ever had your heart broken . . .

"We learnt never again to be nice to journalists," Dolores continues. "They have the weirdest ideas of what's cool and important and what isn't. We mayn't know which side of the tube platforms to stand on, but these people come out from London and look at a field and say: "Is that a cow or a bull?" They're just as ignorant and naive as we were, but in a different way."

"So . . . what's it like to be canonised when you started out?" Noel sighs. His brother, Mike, sighs. Feargal sighs. Dolores rolls her eyes. "We were like, 17, 18, 19 when it all started," she says, opening another packet of crisps. "Just doing music because we wanted to; and then things happened so fast. One minute we were rehearsing at home and the next we were plastered on every paper. It takes a while to get used to it; to be able to cope with it."

Feargal adds: "And we've all changed a lot." And here would be a good place to quote a Cranberries lyric: *Oh my life/is changing every day/in every possible way* . . . but just reading that, you can't imagine the knots and twists and gasps and glides Dolores puts on each ordinary looking syllable. She could storm and swoon through the five-year warranty on my Apple Mac and make it sound like a chorus of bliss.

The interview pauses when someone gets stuck in the dressing-room lavatory. Dolores informs him: "There's a sink and basin here. Mike, you can use the sink out here." Everybody giggles. Dolores opens another packet of crisps. She really is my ultra hero.

"So, now you've escaped from the Tower of Hype and are free, what do you want to do?" "I want to build on our live following," Dolores says. "When people come back afterwards and say, 'Oh, that was a great gig', or 'you made me cry', I feel really happy."

"I want to get the U2 back catalogue from Island Records: they promised us we could have it when we signed for them, and I still haven't had it," Feargal says. He also wants the Bob Marley box set.

And Noel? "I want to get a seat in Spud-U-Like," he says.

One day, in the not too distant future, I foresee the Cranberries becoming so famous that Noel might very well get *two* seats in Spud-U-Like.

CAITLIN MORAN

● *The Cranberries' album* Everybody Else is Doing It, So Why Can't We? *is on Island Records. Dates: April 2, General Wolfe, Coventry; April 3, Equinox, Bedford; April 4, Leicester Polytechnic.*

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